

Yorkshire Bird Report

2009



Yorkshire Bird Report 2009

Editor ▣

Craig Thomas

Assistant Editor ▣

Jill Warwick

Compiled by ▣

Phil Bone
Keith Clarkson
Ian Court
Geoff Dobbs
Ian Kendall
Jim Pewtress
Craig Thomas
John Wint
Steve Worwood

Photography ▣

Dave Bryan
Graham Catley
Marcus Conway
Michael Flowers
Sue Hepton
Mike Lane
Dave Mansell
Ron Marshall
Steve Race
Tristan Reid
Dick Roberts
Glyn Sellors
Ian Smith

Illustrators ▣

Jack Ashton-Booth
Russ Boland
Tony Disley
John Grist
Michael Henry
Jonathan Pomroy
Ray Scally
Richard Tite
Colin Wilkinson

Sponsor ▣

TL Dallas

Advertisers ▣

British Trust for Ornithology
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
T & R Theakston Limited
Yorkshire Birding
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Design and Production ▣

Chris Gaughan
Designwing, Bradford
01274 815286
info@designwing.co.uk

Printers ▣

Crowes of Norwich, UK
+44 (0)1603 403349
graphics@crowes.co.uk

Published by ▣

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Birds Section.
Registered Charity No.224018.



Malham Cove • YNU

Editor's welcome

Welcome to the fifth Yorkshire Bird Report produced since the re-launched 2005 edition. This Report summarises information garnered from 39 club/ local annual reports and several national databases and collates data provided by over 1680 observers. This includes Geoff Carr of Ossett, who supplied records for the sixtieth consecutive year.

Published in May 2011, the trend towards ever earlier production continues and this represents the herculean efforts of local recorders, writers and the YNU's Bird Section amongst others – thanks to all involved.

Although there were no additions to the County list in 2009, the belated acceptance of the Amur Falcon at Tophill Low in autumn 2008 is detailed within this publication. All unusual records have been accepted by the relevant authority and the county's Adjudication Panel assessed 107 records pertaining to 2009, of which all but 15 were deemed acceptable.

Special mention must also be made of Jim Pewtress, who, in addition to helping collate information and be a member of the writing team, has also acted as secretary to the Birds Section for the last ten years. However, after such sterling service, Jim has now decided to retire and enjoy a well-deserved break – many thanks Jim. Thankfully the section has been lucky enough to appoint Sue Plaxton as the new secretary. Sue works for Natural England, which will further increase the close ties between the Birds Section and various conservation organisations, with existing members also working for the RSPB and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

It is hoped that a detailed ringing summary will be published in the next edition; this has proved impossible this year, due to complications of East Yorkshire data being subsumed under 'Humberside' and therefore including many records from the northern reaches of Lincolnshire. We would also welcome any further suggestions for future articles, but in the meantime, we hope everyone enjoys a review of the status of Yorkshire's birds in 2009.

© YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION 2011

This publication is copyright. It may not be reproduced in whole or in part by whatever means without permission of YNU's Birds Section.



Yorkshire Naturalists' Union



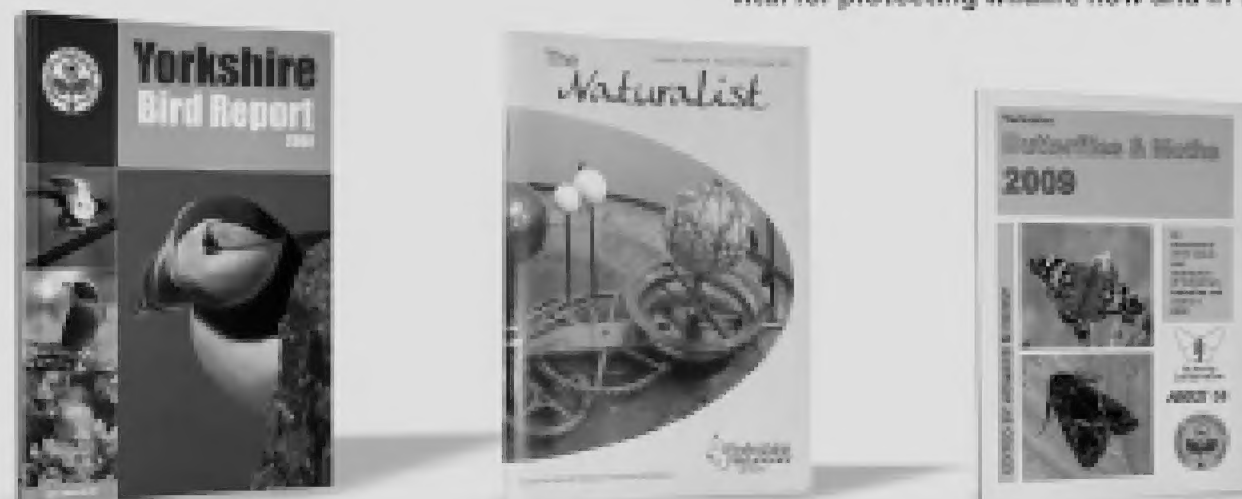
The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union is one of the country's longest established wildlife organisations, celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2011

YNU

- Helps members identify and record all wild species found in Yorkshire, including plants, animals, birds, insects and fungi
- Shares knowledge with new members through organising site visits, surveys and running training sessions and talks
- Promotes and encourages the conservation and study of Yorkshire's species and geological features

The benefits of joining

- Free copies of *The Naturalist* – three times a year
- Free annual copies of the *Yorkshire Bird Report* and the *Butterflies and Moths Report*
- Opportunities to use and improve survey techniques at outdoor/indoor training events
- The opportunity to inform wildlife conservation
- Special offers on books produced by members
- The evidence, and records of wildlife we collect, is vital for protecting wildlife now and in the future



To help us celebrate our 150th anniversary, new members can join the YNU for just **£15** in 2011

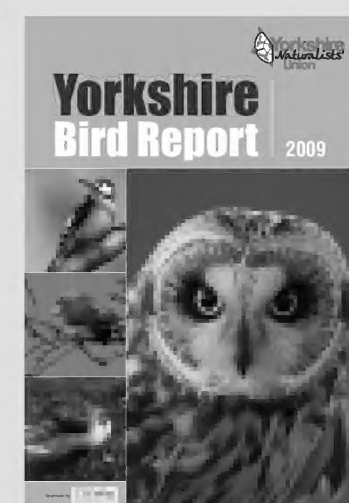
How to join the YNU

Download a form from www.ynu.org.uk and return to Hannah Droop at membership@ynu.org.uk or contact the address below.

YNU Membership Secretary,
C/O NEYEDC, St Williams College,
5 College Street, York.
Telephone: 01904 641631



Contents



Cover

Left:

Great Spotted Woodpecker
Crossbill
Grey Wagtail
► Dave Mansell

Right:

Short-eared Owl
► Glyn Sellors

4	Birds Section
5	Introduction
7	Highlights
10	Systematic List explained
13	Systematic List / Categories A and C
168	Systematic List / Categories B and E
172	Additions and corrections to previous Reports
175	Early and late dates of migrants
177	First Record for Yorkshire & Britain
181	Gallery
198	List of contributors
206	Rare breeding birds in Yorkshire
207	Local Reports
208	Guidelines for contributors





Contacts

Recorder

Craig Thomas
Sunnybank, Church Lane, Flamborough YO15 1PG
Tel: 01262 851677
email: craigcthomas@yahoo.co.uk

Secretary

Sue Plaxton
c/o Natural England, Fourth Floor,
Foss House, King s Pool,
1-2 Peasholm Green, York YO1 7PX
Tel: 07724 761206
email: sue.plaxton@yahoo.com

Committee member

Mike Pilsworth
105 High Street, Swinefleet, Goole DN14 8AH
Tel: 01405 704785
email: mikepilsworth@hotmail.com

Report sales/advertising

Jill Warwick
Sharow Grange, Sharow, Ripon HG4 5BN
Tel: 01765 602832
email: jill@swland.co.uk

Vice-County Recorders

VC 61

Geoff Dobbs
1 Priory Road, Beverley HU17 0EG
Tel: 07778 559763
email: geoffdobbs@aol.com

VC 62

Phil Bone
11 Dorrington Close, Pocklington YO42 2GS
Tel: 07880 846905
email: philsarab@aol.co.uk

VC 63

John Wint
9 Yew Tree Park, Whitey, Goole DN14 0NZ
Tel: 01977 662826
email: j.wint114@btinternet.com

VC 64

Ian Court
2 Burley Mews, Steeton, Keighley, BD20 6TX
Tel: 01535 658582
email: ian.court@mypostoffice.co.uk

VC 65

Steve Worwood
18 Coltsgate Hill, Ripon HG4 2AB
Tel: 01765 602518
email: steve@worwood.entadsl.com

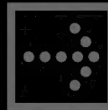
Subscriptions 2012

Members	£25 per annum
Joint/family members (at one address)	£30 per annum
Low Income	£20 per annum
Students	£15 per annum
Affiliated Societies	£30 per annum
Institutions (UK)	£30 per annum
Institutions (overseas)	£36 per annum

Membership Secretary

Mrs Hannah Droop
c/o NEYEDC St William’s College, 5 College Street, YORK YO1 7JF.
Tel: 01904 636952 (evening)
email: membership@ynu.org.uk
website: www.ynu.org.uk

To mark our 150th anniversary, new members can join for £15 in 2011



This Report covers all 293 species recorded within the county during 2009. Although there were no additions to the County List in 2009, the belated acceptance of Tophill Low’s Amur Falcon brings the official Yorkshire List to 446.

Where applicable, YNU’s Birds Section and the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) have accepted all rare and unusual species.

This Report details all birds occurring within the current political boundaries of Yorkshire and Cleveland south of the Tees; for recording purposes, this area is then divided into the five relevant Watsonian vice-counties (VCs 61-65).

The VCs each have their own recorder, with contact details listed previously. A map depicting the recording area covered by this Report is found on the inside back cover. The HerbariaUnited website www.herbariaunited.org/gridrefVC/ will attribute any grid reference to a respective VC; information on site grid references are easily obtained from the online Ordnance Survey “Get a Map” facility, or from the site directories on www.birdguides.com.

Description Requirements

It is our aim to present these Reports with complete accuracy, so that those who use them in the future may accept the species accounts without doubt or query. An Adjudication Panel assists the work of the Birds Section by assessing all national and county rarities requiring a description. The Panel consists of the following members: Ian Court, Mick Cunningham, Geoff Dobbs, Paul Irving, Mike Pilsworth, Graham Speight, Garry Taylor, Craig Thomas, Nick Whitehouse and Steve Worwood. If more than one member of the Panel is unwilling to support a record, it will be classed as ‘not proven’. It must be stressed this doesn’t necessarily mean that the bird has been mis-identified, but more often, that there is not enough detail to be conclusive.

British Birds Rarities Committee

All national rarities must be first described and accepted by BBRC to be included in the Yorkshire Report. We would prefer to receive the description first and will then forward it on immediately, which follows BBRC’s preferred method of record submission; the Birds Section abides by any decision made by BBRC. A list of species for which descriptions are required by BBRC is available at www.bbrc.org.uk.

Yorkshire Rarities

The following list of county rarities requires a description and/or photographic evidence to secure the acceptance needed for publication within this Report.

In addition, the Birds Section reserves the right not to publish records of scarce birds which cannot be attributed to a named observer and are unsupported by photographic evidence.

Taiga Bean Goose	European Honey-buzzard	Ring-billed Gull	Dusky Warbler
Tundra Bean Goose	Black Kite	White-winged Black Tern	Woodchat Shrike
[flight only]	White-tailed Eagle	Alpine Swift	Red-billed Chough
Black Brant	Montagu’s Harrier	Short-toed Lark	Arctic Redpoll
American Wigeon	Rough-legged Buzzard	Red-rumped Swallow	Parrot Crossbill
Ferruginous Duck	Golden Eagle	Tawny Pipit	Cirl Bunting
Surf Scoter	Red-footed Falcon	Red-throated Pipit	Rustic Bunting
White-billed Diver	Kentish Plover	Aquatic Warbler	Little Bunting
Wilson’s Storm-petrel	American Golden Plover	Marsh Warbler	
Black-crowned Night	White-rumped Sandpiper	Melodious Warbler	
Heron	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Dartford Warbler	
Cattle Egret	Red-necked Phalarope	Subalpine Warbler	
Great White Egret	[flight only]	Greenish Warbler	
Purple Heron	Caspian Gull	Radde’s Warbler	

The Panel will require descriptions to support records of difficult to determine races, particularly those whose taxonomic status is under review, including Black-bellied Dipper and Siberian Chiffchaff.

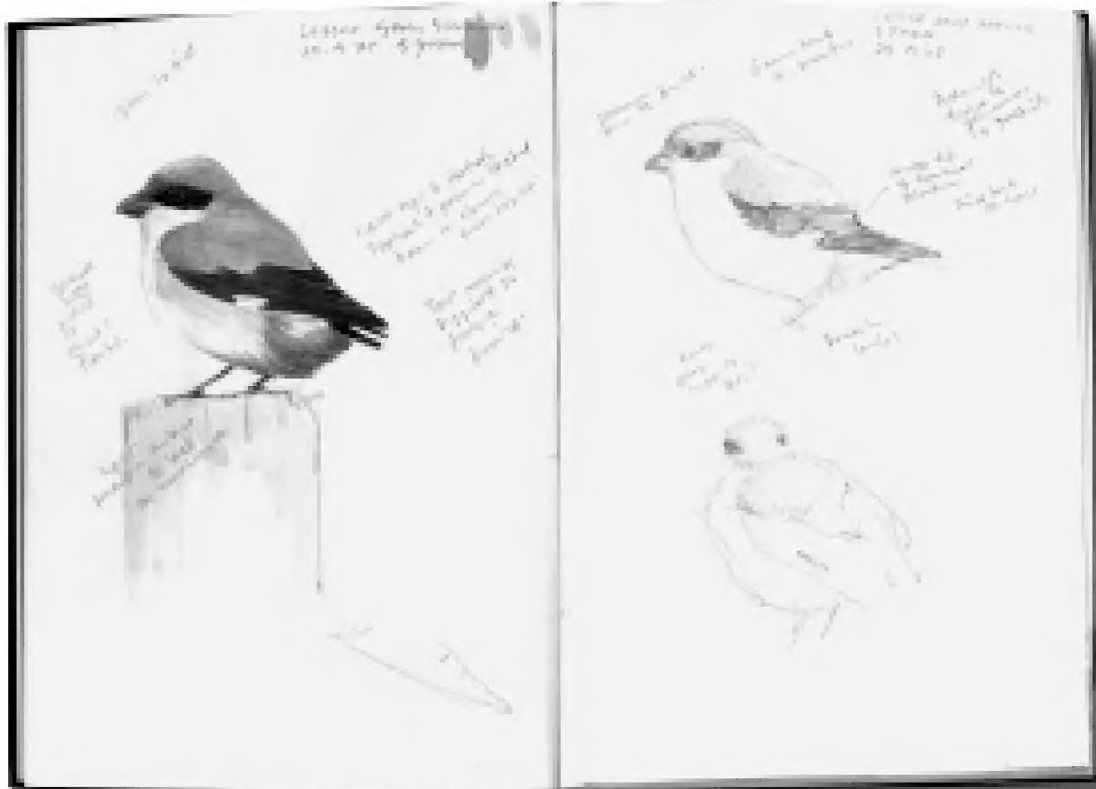
In the cases of closely related species groups, such as American/Pacific Golden Plover and the Pratincole/Dowitcher species, BBRC will not judge records where no specific identification has been reached. Therefore the Adjudication Panel will consider such records for the sake of completeness and to monitor occurrences.

The Panel is also willing to assist in adjudicating any records for local groups and societies.

Descriptions

The work of the Adjudication Panel can be aided if observers submit descriptions as soon as possible. Details should include the description taken in the field, before reference to books; the locality; date and time; habitat; weather conditions; optical aids used; distance from the bird; period of observation; species present for comparison and previous experience of the species. If anyone disagrees with the identification should also be noted. The Birds Section welcomes the electronic submission of records and photographs, with the provision that some detail is supplied about location, first/last dates and the name(s) of the finder(s). Description forms for rarities can be obtained by email from any of the contacts listed on page 4.

If the finder/identifier has not submitted the record, but a photograph has been published in a magazine or on the internet, then the magazine/website will be credited.



Notes taken in a field sketch book • Ray Scally

Acknowledgements

A thank you is due to local bird club recorders and individuals for contributing the huge amounts of data upon which this publication so relies.

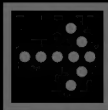
In addition, the writing team of Phil Bone, Keith Clarkson, Ian Court, Geoff Dobbs, Ian Kendall, John Wint and Steve Worwood deserve particular credit. Thanks to Jill Warwick for helping enormously by sharing the burden of editing the Report.

Russ Boland, Tony Disley, Michael Henry, Ray Scally, Richard Tite and Colin Wilkinson require special thanks for their excellent line artwork that further enhances the Report. Gratitude is also due to the many photographers who submitted work for consideration, including Graham Catley, Justin Carr, Marcus Conway, Michael Flowers, John Harwood, Sue Hepton, John Hewitt, Mike Lane, Dave Mansell, Ron Marshall, Steve Race, Tristan Reid, Dick Roberts, Glyn Sellors, Ian Smith and Mark Thomas. Special thanks to Phil Warren, the North Pennines Black Grouse Recovery Project Officer and the North York Moors Merlin Study Group for supplying detailed information.

Appreciation must also be given to our sponsor and advertisers, whose contributions have helped finance continued improvements. A big thank you is also due to Chris Gaughan of Designwing, for all his help and assistance over recent months.

Finally, sincere thanks to all who promoted sales of the latest Yorkshire Bird Report, with particular appreciation to staff at: Filey Country Park Stores; RSPB Bempton Cliffs, Blacktoft Sands, Fairburn Ings, Old Moor & Saltholme; the Wild Bird Café at North Cave Wetlands; and YWT Potteric Carr & Spurn Point.

Highlights



Caspian Gull (Potteric Carr) • Tristan Reid

The year began with a drake Green-winged Teal in residence in the Dearne Valley and subsequently, North Cave Wetlands hosted another from 20th January, although the assumption was both had arrived in the County the previous autumn. Increasingly scarce, a small herd of 12 Bewick's Swans provided a welcome diversion when they took up temporary residence at North Frodingham from mid-January; single Bean Geese at Thorganby Ings and Spurn in the month's last week proved to be the year's only records. Both the Yorkshire Wolds and North Yorkshire Moors continued to attract visitors keen to see wintering Rough-legged Buzzards at Millington Pastures and Sleddale respectively. Spurn delivered one of the first signs of spring, when a Crane flew west there on 19th February. The Caspian Gull continued to provide a lesson in identification at Potteric Carr, as did the first-winter drake King Eider discovered on the north side of Flamborough on 25th February; incredibly, this appeared in exactly the same place as the previous year's adult drake.

April again proved to be a productive month for Nearctic wildfowl, with a Green-winged Teal at North

Duffield Carrs on 7th preceding a drake Lesser Scaup that took up residence on Hornsea Mere from 13th. More unexpected, an early male Montagu's Harrier was photographed over the Pennines at Deanhead Res on 11th; undoubtedly the same individual then relocated to New Swillington Ings the following day. The southern flavour continued in the latter half of April, starting with a male Subalpine Warbler at Spurn on 18th. More unexpected, a Little Bunting dodged golf balls on Flamborough GC from 22nd, while a Great White Egret over Staveley NR on 24th was more predictable. April ended with an appreciable influx of Red-rumped Swallows: the first graced Flamborough early on 26th, with another at Filey and two at Spurn later the same day; Swine Moor hosted the next on 27th and finally, two fed over Hornsea Mere the following evening.

The UK's first ever spring Hume's Warbler initially perplexed along Beacon Lane on 12th May, although it eventually showed well enough for the identification to be clinched. Nearby, a Thrush Nightingale proved elusive at Kilnsea on 15th; its arrival coincided with one of spring's better falls, but begged the question;

Protect *your assets*

T L Dallas is one of the leading independent Insurance Broking, Risk Management & Financial Services groups in the UK: with over 100 dedicated professionals throughout the country, we provide the best solutions for both your commercial & private insurance requirements.

Together with other Unitas members, we place nearly £1 Billion of premiums each year, and yet still provide all our clients with a personal service.

To discuss your requirements please contact:

Polly Staveley or Mike Martin

T: 01274 465500



Bradford London Larnock Manchester Falkirk Belfast

www.tldallas.com www.unitas-alliance.co.uk

will one ever give itself up away from Spurn? High pressure south-east of the UK produced superb overshoot conditions in May's fourth week and resulted in an almost unprecedented arrival of southern rarities. On 23rd, a Collared Pratincole arrived at Swillington Ings and delighted many over subsequent days, while a Buff-breasted Sandpiper took a liking to the recently restored peatland on Hatfield Moors; further east, a Terek Sandpiper boosted many a county list at Patrington Haven and a singing Melodious Warbler provided a diversion at Spurn. The optimal conditions continued on 24th and three Whiskered Terns at Swillington Ings vied for attention with the Pratincole, a male Woodchat was located near Pugney's CP and a first-summer Red-footed Falcon completed another double, this time on Hatfield Moors.

Thorne Moors has rapidly established itself as the site to catch-up with 'Red-foots', and so it proved again, when it hosted a first-summer male on 14th June; it would not take long for visitors to appreciate its choice of location, as the voracity of the biting insect population would soon illustrate. A summer-plumaged Spotted Sandpiper showed well at North Cave Wetlands on 20th June, while the stay of yet another Whiskered Tern at Staveley four days later was much briefer.

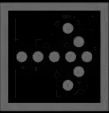
Attention then diverted towards breeders: unfortunately, the now established pair of Cranes failed to raise young to flying stage, although Little Egrets bred for the first time ever. While the number of lekking male Black Grouse declined, presumably due to increased winter mortality during the cold snap, there were encouraging signs of an expansion in range. Six pairs of Black-necked Grebes bred at one site and managed to fledge 11 young, while a single pair bred successfully at another location. Bitterns fledged for the first time at Blacktoft Sands and the same site hosted a record number of Marsh Harrier nests. The Lower Derwent Valley attracted up to 12 calling Spotted Crakes and several Corncrakes, although where these birds actually ended up attempting to breed is conjecture. Along the coast Marsh Warblers bred at Kilnsea and attempted to do so further north at Scalby.

Often a month that features rare waders, July did not disappoint, with the year's second twitchable Collared Pratincole gracing Puffin Bog from 20th. Elsewhere, a Lesser Yellowlegs dropped in at Wheldrake Ings on 22nd before relocating to Paull Holme Strays, where it performed for several days. Lacking passerines of note, August nevertheless produced a Great White Egret at Hornsea Mere from 26th, the same site then attracted a confiding juvenile White-winged Black Tern the next day, and another Great White Egret flew south at Spurn on 28th.

Booted Warblers have become scarcer over recent years, so a single at Spurn from 12th September was welcomed. The autumn was a disappointment for seawatch enthusiasts, although the onset of northerlies in mid-September proved their worth with a total of five Great Shearwaters observed off Flamborough and Spurn. A juvenile Woodchat that lingered at nearby Sammy's Point from 16th, masqueraded as its commoner relative for a brief while, and further north, an eventually confiding Greenish Warbler delighted locals at Scalby Lodge on 17th September. Spurn soon hit back with a Rustic Bunting on 18th, followed next day by a Short-toed Lark photographed at the Point – no need to trouble an adjudication panel for long, self-appointed or not!

October opened with a bang, with the discovery of a long-awaited Baillon's Crake along the Canal at Spurn on 1st; a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at South Anston the same day hardly registered. Unfortunately, the crake was not seen subsequently and a Glossy Ibis south over the sea at Spurn on 3rd provided scant recompense. Notable seawatching records seem to be on the increase at Spurn, and so it again proved on 5th, when the observatory's first-ever Fea's/Zino's Petrel flew north late morning. A window from the east opened in the second week and Radde's Warblers duly made landfall at Filey, Flamborough and Sammy's Point on 10th October. Exactly a week later, another Radde's Warbler was discovered in Kilnsea; subsequent hopefuls were rewarded, not with the warbler, but a Red-flanked Bluetail hopping around the edge of the car park! Incredibly, a second Bluetail lurked at the nearby Point and showed well over subsequent days. Easterlies and drizzle were responsible for the arrival of yet another Red-flanked Bluetail at Bempton and a Dusky Warbler at Flamborough on 23rd; unsurprisingly, the Bluetail subsequently gave much better views than the warbler. The huge Golden Plover flock at Old Moor hosted an 'American Goldie' on 27th October, with two juvenile Red-rumped Swallows at Spurn the same day. The month closed with a Little Bunting at Spurn and a co-operative Short-toed Lark at Flamborough.

An influx of Cetti's Warblers stole the headlines late on; although initiated by Spurn's second ever on 9th October, most of the estimated 18 arrived in South Yorkshire during the first days of November. Otherwise, the latter two months were predictably quiet, although a drake Ferruginous Duck discovered at Pugney's CP on 22nd November woke many from their slumbers; the same area then scored a double, with a first-winter Ring-necked Duck identified on the Calder Washlands on Christmas Eve.



YNU’s Adjudication Panel or the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) has accepted all rare and unusual species that require a description in this Report. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of the BOU *The British List* (seventh edition, 2007), incorporating the recommendations of the BOU Records Committee 36th Report (*Ibis* 2008: 150, 218-220). The sequence for shanks and gulls has altered, some scientific names have changed, and in particular, Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* has been elevated to full species status. Vernacular as well as international names are now included in *The British List* and these are generally used in this Report.

- A** Species that have been recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950.
- B** Species that were recorded in an apparently natural state at least once between 1 January 1800 and 31 December 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently, (not in this report).
- C** Species that, although introduced, now derive from the resulting self-sustaining populations.
- C1** *Naturalised introduced species* – species that have occurred only because of introduction, e.g. Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (must breed or be proven wanderers to the county)
- C2** *Naturalised established species* - species with established populations resulting from introduction by Man, but which also occur in an apparently natural state, e.g. Greylag Goose *Anser anser*
- C3** *Naturalised re-established species* - species with populations successfully re-established by Man in areas of former occurrence, e.g. Red Kite *Milvus milvus*
- C4** *Naturalised feral species* - domesticated species with populations established in the wild, e.g. Rock Pigeon (Dove) / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*.
- C5** *Vagrant naturalised species* - species from established naturalized populations abroad, e.g. possibly some Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* occurring in Britain. There are currently no species in category C5.
- C6** *Former naturalised species* – species formerly placed in C1 whose naturalised populations are either no longer self-sustaining or are considered extinct, e.g. Lady Amherst’s Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae*. There are no Yorkshire species in this category.
- D** Species that would otherwise appear in Category A except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state. Species placed in Category D only form no part of the British List, and are not included in the species totals. (See separate section in this Report).

E Species that have been recorded as introductions, human-assisted transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. Species in Category E that have bred in the wild in Britain are designated as E*. Category E species form no part of the British List (unless already included within Categories A, B or C). (See separate section in this Report).

The British List comprises only those species in Categories A, B and C.
The Yorkshire List comprises species in categories A, B and C, but the rules for including Category C species must be applicable to Yorkshire.

Abbreviations used in the Report

AON	Apparently Occupied Nests
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CP	Country Park
GC	Golf Course
GP	Gravel Pit
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NR	Nature Reserve
RBBP	Rare Bird Breeding Panel
Res	Reservoir(s)
SF/SW	Sewage Farm/Sewage Works
WTW	Water Treatment Works

Species Totals

Species totals in the name line refer to the number of records reported over the last five years, including the current year.

Previous Records

Previous records in the status line refer to the number of accepted records, excluding the current year. If the species is or was under the jurisdiction of **BBRC**, the totals only include records accepted and published by that body. Birds seen at more than one location in the same year and considered to refer to probably the same individual(s) are regarded as a single record. Birds seen at more than one location in the same year, but considered to refer to possibly the same individual(s) are regarded as separate records. On a limited number of occasions, a record may consist of more than one individual (e.g. parties of Bee-eaters *Merops apiaster* and some waders).

Species Status

A preliminary statement indicates the status of each species in Yorkshire.

Vagrant	Up to 10 records in total since records began
Rare	0-10 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Scarce	11-100 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Uncommon	101-1000 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Fairly common	More than 1000 records per year
Common	More than 10000 records per year
Abundant	More than 50000 records per year

Conservation Status

Status on the list of birds of conservation concern 2002-2007 from the RSPB’s review **The Population Status of Birds in the UK** is noted.
Red list = high conservation concern: declining UK population or globally threatened
Amber list = medium conservation concern.

UK BAP Species

In 1995, 26 bird species were identified as being deserving of the highest priority within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP), because of either threat on a global scale or population declines of 50% or more in the UK in the preceding 25 years. All but one are UK breeding species, the exception being Aquatic Warbler. In 2006, a new UK BAP priority species list was published, operating at the subspecies level. The current UK BAP species are labelled in the Systematic List.

Breeding Bird Survey Figures

In 2009, 211 widely distributed 1 x 1 km. squares were surveyed in Yorkshire and Humberside for the British Trust for Ornithology’s Breeding Bird Survey, a small increase from the 204 surveyed in 2008, but still less than the 225 surveyed in 2007. Of these, more than half (108) were in North Yorkshire, with the rest shared fairly evenly between the other three counties, although East Yorkshire /Humberside also includes a handful of North Lincolnshire squares.
The total number of 1km squares in which each species was recorded is noted on the status line (out of the 211 surveyed). This should be interpreted with care although does give some indication about how widespread each species is.
The population trends for those species with sufficient records to qualify for meaningful analysis of the BBS data are stated for 1995-2009 and 2008-2009, (with comparable figures for England in brackets in each case). For example:
MALLARD
BBS 118/211: +36% (+33) 1995-2009, +34% (-1) 2008-09

Found in 118 of the 211 surveyed squares. There has been a 36% increase in population levels counted in the Yorkshire & Humberside squares from 1995-2009 as compared to a 33% increase in England, and a significant 34% increase from 2008 to 2009 in the region compared to a 1% decrease nationally. Short-term changes are not always statistically significant if based from a relatively small numbers of surveys (for example, two survey visits), and some species can be under-recorded on early morning breeding bird surveys.

The totals of the maximum counts recorded in each of the 211 squares provide a useful indication of relative abundance, with the caveat of differences in detectability. In 2009, the total numbers of many species were lower than in 2008, reflecting perhaps the poor breeding season weather in the previous year, and some harsh winter weather. Wren and Meadow Pipit numbers were significantly down, but Swallow numbers were up, as were Jackdaws, Rooks and Carrion Crow.

Rank 2009	Yorkshire's Top 15	Totals counted	Rank 2008	Rank 2007	Rank 1994
1	Woodpigeon	4049	1	1	5
2	Rook	2325	5	3	2
3	Blackbird	2118	3	4	6
4	Starling	1866	2	2	1
5	Chaffinch	1733	4	5	7
6	Carrion Crow	1683	7	6	9
7	Jackdaw	1558	10	9	14
8	House Sparrow	1465	8	8	4
9	Meadow Pipit	1434	6	7	8
10	Swallow	1394	12	12	12
11	Skylark	1209	11	11	13
12	Wren	1094	9	10	15
13	Lapwing	983	13	13	3
14	Blue Tit	890	14	14	-
15	Feral Pigeon	870	15	15	10

WeBS Status

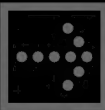
Data has been supplied by the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), a joint scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (the last on behalf of the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment and Heritage Service, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage). Although WeBS data are presented within this report, in some cases the figures may not have been fully checked and validated, and is sometimes combined with counts from other sources. Therefore, for any detailed analyses of WeBS data, enquiries should be directed to the WeBS team at the **British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU** (webs@bto.org). Where no birds were counted, a zero is entered, and a dash if no count is available.

WeBS Threshold figures

International and GB threshold figures given represent 1% of the relevant total population. The Ramsar Convention has established that a wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or sub-species of waterbird.



Systematic List



MUTE SWAN *Cygnetsnus olor* **AC2**
Uncommon resident breeder and winter visitor in all VCs. BBS 13/211
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 320: GB threshold 375

The national breeding population has been increasing since the 1980s and this is reflected in wintering numbers. The regional population appears to be stable or increasing slightly; recorded in six more BBS squares this year.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	–	12	2	3	5	–	–	–	33	33	27	–
Castle Howard	34	41	44	32	15	36	38	42	59	68	95	85
Fairburn Ings	82	91	124	95	81	190	265	214	–	–	126	100
Flasks Lake	12	9	10	8	11	26	28	28	15	14	6	7
Hay-a-Park GP	9	10	12	11	11	26	42	40	54	39	23	16
Hornsea Mere	38	64	21	39	46	–	318	198	126	62	39	–
North Humber	12	16	21	12	22	11	12	15	7	14	26	41
Nosterfield NR	5	3	10	9	16	12	8	7	4	4	7	16
Old Moor	23	20	29	20	44	37	26	29	27	42	25	25
Pugney’s CP	8	7	9	13	11	17	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pulfin & High Eske	–	–	28	6	–	17	26	29	45	–	67	–
Ripon Race Course	27	22	20	51	–	16	10	5	20	16	12	–
Rodley NR	8	4	3	9	6	4	5	4	3	4	8	2
South Tees	8	4	13	12	15	20	11	10	10	10	3	8
Thrybergh CP	10	19	21	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tophill Low	4	96	24	24	51	18	12	24	32	47	8	6
Winterset Res	11	13	18	24	13	16	13	20	33	34	47	27

January maxima included 29 at Bolton-on-Swale, 15 at Edderthorpe Flash, Seamer Road Mere and at Walton Hall, ten at Catwick GP and Lowther Lake and nine at Hellfield Flash. In February there were up to 49 at Arram Carrs, 39 on the Driffield Canal, 20 at both Farnley Balancing Res and Seamer Carr, 17 on Roundhay Park (Leeds) and 12 at Mickletown Ings. In April, Leventhorpe Flood Meadows attracted 36 and Otley Wetlands hosted 24. Later counts in May included 68 at Tophill Low, 32 at Potteric Carr, 24 on Skelton Lake and ten at both Lowther Lake and Swine Moor.

Breeding pairs were reported from: Bransholme Fishing Pond, Bransholme SW, Brompton Pond, Driffield Canal, Edderthorpe Flash, Fairburn Ings (seven pairs), Farnley near Otley, Ferry Moor at Grimethorpe (two pairs), Flaxby GC (two pairs), Flixton Bridge (Scarborough), Gorpley Res, Hay-a-Park GP (two pairs), Hemlington Lake, Hornsea Mere, Kelk Beck, Knotford Nook, Long Bank Marsh at Easington, Low Marishes near Scarborough, North Cave (two pairs), Otley Wetlands (four pairs), Pocklington Canal (three pairs), Potteric Carr (seven pairs rearing a record 34 young), Ruston Carr, Saltmarshe Delph, Scampston Park, Seamer Road Mere, Spurn, Southfield Farm near Thirsk, Studley Royal, Swine Moor, Winterset Res (six pairs) and York University.

Counts during the second half of the year included 18 on the Driffield Canal in July and ten at Edderthorpe Flash in August. There were 39 on Skelton Lake and eight at Catcliffe Flash in September and the following month produced 70 at Arram Carrs, 37 at Watton NR and 11 at Spurn. November maxima included an impressive 123 at Welton Waters, 27 on Leventhorpe Flood Meadows, 14 on Seamer Tip Pond and eight at Farnham GP. Notable December counts included 19 at Allerston Loft Marishes, 15 at Long Bank, Easington and 14 at Staveley NR.

BEWICK’S SWAN *Cygnetsnus columbianus* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: scarce migrant and winter visitor in declining numbers.
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 200: GB threshold 81

The Eurasian race *bewickii* breeds in the tundra of the Russian high Arctic and winters in the Netherlands and at a few favoured sites in Britain. It is becoming increasingly scarce in the county; potentially due to increasing

numbers remaining in continental Europe due to milder winters, coupled with British winterers concentrating at feeding reserves elsewhere.

At the start of the year, an adult accompanied five Whoopers at North Duffield Carrs on 3rd/4th January and three flew south over Wheldrake Ings on 6th January. Meanwhile in the Hull Valley, a small herd of 12 (including four juveniles) was found with Whoopers in a field near North Frodingham on 18th January, with 11 still present the following day and ten remaining until 20th February. Elsewhere, eight flew west over Winterset Res with two Whoopers on 1st February, one was at Bubwith on 19th and 26th, two were at Brandesburton Ponds on 27th February and two flew north over Hessle with 26 Whooper Swans on 21st March. A single at Skelton Lake on 3rd April was only the second record within the Leeds recording area this decade, demonstrating how scarce this species has become in recent years.

The autumn’s first record related to two at Nicholson’s Lagoons on 25th October, followed by a duo flying south past Spurn on 1st and 11 there on 15th November. Elsewhere, eight flew south past Jackson’s Bay (Scarborough) on 6th November, a single appeared with the Whoopers at North Duffield Carrs the next day, and then remained until at least 2nd December, and 12 flew north over Newton-on-Ouse on 28th November. In December, three flew south past Spurn on 1st, 13 stayed at Cleasby GP from 7th–12th, two were at Nosterfield NR on 13th, two were in a field at Mexborough over Christmas and five flew south past Northowram and a single was at Thrybergh CP on 29th December.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnetsnus cygnetsnus* **AE**
Amber list: uncommon migrant in increasing numbers and winter visitor Oct – April
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 210: GB threshold 57

Breeds from Iceland east across northern Eurasia, with Britain’s wintering population of mostly Icelandic origin, but some Fennoscandian birds have been recorded in eastern England. A small herd winters in the Lower Derwent Valley, but over half the British population (in excess of 3750), now winter on the Ouse Washes and some of these migrate through the county, which contributes to the increasing numbers being reported.

Monthly Maxima

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Arram Carrs	12	18	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16	11
North Duffield Carrs	60	57	69	13	–	–	–	–	–	7	55	89
Beal Carrs	20	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	3	45

Other maximum counts in January included 23 at Fairburn Ings on 25th and 20 at Staveley NR. Elsewhere, 16 flew north–west over Welton Waters on 30th, eight were at Winscar Res on 31st, eight were at Stainton on 1st and eight were also at Elstronwick on 6th February. The number of records increased in March as birds began to move through the county as they headed north. Peak migration took place between 5th and 23rd March; some higher counts including 26 at Pulfin and High Eske on 8th, 11 in fields near Selby on 10th, 12 at Winterset Res on 11th, 28 at Lower Laithe Res on 11th/12th, 34 were at Pulfin Bog on 12th, 55 flew north–west over Sunk Island on 15th and 41 were at Lower Barden Res on 16th.

An obvious movement started on 17th March and included 42 north–west over Broomhill Flash, 40 north–east over Carlton, 13 north–west over Edderthorpe Flash, 12 at Grimwith Res, 55 north–west over Hessle, 60 tracked over Knaresborough, 12 were at Wilsic and 50 flew over Headingley. The following day produced 62 over Catcliffe, 40 were at Farnham GP, 50 flew west over Illingworth, 30 tracked east over Old Moor, 38 flew over Ripon RC, 27 flew over Staveley NR, 58 headed over Horbury Wyke, 45 were noted at Edderthorpe Flash, 65 flew west over Clayton, 25 headed west over Ulley CP, 38 were at Potteric Carr, 60 appeared at Hellifield Flash, 40 flew over Sheffield and 51 flew north–west over Swillington Ings. On 19th March 58 flew over Barden Scale, 29 were at Gouthwaite Res, ten at Nosterfield NR, 31 were at Ogden and 150 flew north–west over Potteric Carr. The next day 101 flew north over North Cave, 120 headed north over Selby, 74 flew over Sharow (Ripon), 46 were at Southfield Res and 50 flew over Thornton Moor Res.

Caught up in this movement were two birds wearing satellite tags – they left North Duffield Carrs on the evening of 20th March and were in Iceland the next morning. Subsequently two at Swine Moor on 2nd/3rd April, one of which sported yellow ring J33 (‘Edmund’), left on the evening of 3rd and were off the east coast of Iceland by 8th. Also in April there were 32 at Southfield Res on 1st and singles were at North Cave on 4th and Wheldrake Ings on 5th. Elsewhere 26 were at Lower Barden Res and two at Scar House Res on 6th, with lone individuals on Hellifield Flash, Royd Moor Res (until 12th) and Stuncheon Hill Ponds on 10th. Finally, a single dropped in at Potteric Carr on 11th May.

The first of the autumn were three at Silverwood Lagoons on 23rd September, followed by nine at Scaling Dam on 30th. In October, there were two adults at Anglers CP on 1st, with 30 over Scalby and two on Hatfield Moors the following day. There was one at Anglers CP on 4th, with five here on 7th, two were at Featherstone on 6th, and a single rested on the sea off Cromer Point on 9th, when seven arrived at North Duffield Carrs. Spurn’s first were logged on 10th, with two juveniles present at Castle Howard the next day, when two were noted passing Marine Drive (Scarborough) and four headed past Flamborough. On 12th two flew south past Long Nab and five were on Hornsea Mere on 16th. On 17th October a single visited Edderthorpe Flash, 11 were at Fairburn Ings (and seven more were recorded heading west), three were on Flasks Lake (Ripon) and two adults were at Nosterfield NR. Seven were on Lingham Lake on 18th, when there were also two at Faxfleet, two over Masham GP and four visited Patrington Haven. The last third of October produced six at Eccup Res, 24 on Staveley NR and 25 east over Blacktoft Sands on 23rd, 15 flew south past Filey, four flew past Flamborough and 11 were Welton Waters on 25th and ten dropped in at Pulfin and High Eske NR the following day. October ended with 12 in fields near Long Bank, Easington on 28th and seven at North Cave on 31st.

Immigration intensified during the first half of November, with 139 through Spurn between 4th and 7th. Scaling Dam hosted 28 and Nosterfield NR a further ten on 3rd, with eight at Swillington Ings and 11 at Winterset Res the following day and seven at Old Moor and 14 at North Cave on 5th. Coastal passage was evident on 6th including 32 heading over Flamborough, 29 passing Saltburn and 20 at Filey Dams. Blackmoorfoot Res recorded ten on 7th followed by 28 over York on 9th November. A group of 11 flew over Long Nab on 15th, with an additional nine through there on 22nd; when there were also 16 at Arram Carrs, ten at Pulfin Bog and eight at Edderthorpe Flash. Scaling Dam hosted 22 on 26th November, followed by 30 over York and 16 through Flamborough the next day. Twenty flew over Bradford, ten passed over Long Nab and 35 were present at Hornsea Mere on 28th and November closed with 13 at Ringstone Edge Res on 30th.

In December a small number of wintering herds were present including 21 at Allerston Loft Marishes, 12 at North Cave and 11 at both Arram Carrs and Green Hammerton. Elsewhere, 23 flew south over Askham Bog on 1st, 30 were on flood waters near Beningbrough on 5th, six flew over Halifax on 13th and 13 dropped in at Scalby Lodge Pond on 23rd.



BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* **A** 21,19,42,19,2
Amber list: scarce and irregular winter visitor and passage migrant
Several subspecies breed across the northern Palearctic, two of which occur in the county. The form *rossicus* is the more common, occurring in small parties in some winters.

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabalis rossicus* **A**
A disappointing year with only two singles, both in January. A lone individual accompanied Greylags at Thorganby Ings on 25th (RSS) and then a single flew south over Easington on 31st; after landing briefly at Spurn, it continued its southward journey (JC: JMT).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* **A**
Amber list: fairly common migrant and winter visitor Sept – March
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 2700: GB threshold 2400

This species breeds in east Greenland and central Iceland and winters in Britain, and a population also breeds in Svalbard, mostly wintering in the Low Countries. Wintering numbers have been increasing in Britain for the past 25 years, and more passage birds overfly Yorkshire on migration to wintering grounds in south Lincolnshire and Norfolk.

Monthly Maxima	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	1350	77	38	–	21	–	–	–	878	3615	3000	2900

Larger flocks at the start of the year included 400 at Hatfield Moors on 5th January and 312 at High Eske, 120 at Kelsey, 150 at Paull Holme Strays and 130 at Sprotbrough Flash all on 10th. The following day 135 flew over Littlethorpe and 150 overflowed Queensbury and on 13th 300 were recorded heading west over Mytholmroyd, 270 flew over Stratton and 320 headed over Ward Green. Passage continued on 14th January, with the following totals: 250 north–west over Carlton Marsh, 170 over Cannon Hall CP, 300 over Digley, 150 passing through Hunslet and 250 over Upton. On 15th 260 flew west over Brough Haven, with 240 over Carlton Marsh and 120 logged passing through Old Moor. A skein of 450 heading west over Barrow on 20th was the prelude to a large movement the next day, with totals as follows: 310 over Beal Carrs, 150 over Cottingham, 500 over Denby Dale, 400 over Hardwick, 200 over Halifax, 120 over Horbury SW, 150 over Northowram, 870 over Savile Park, 800 over Stratton, 400 flew past Spurn, 1000 over Treeton Dyke, 2000 over Wadsley Common and 250 over Wombwell Ings. On 27th January 1125 flew west over Bradshaw.

In early February, 225 headed north–west over Carlton Marsh and 420 tracked north over Ferriby on 4th and 200 headed west over Beal Carrs and 150 flew over Swillington Ings on 9th. The second large movement began on 13th February with birds heading west or north–west, starting with 400 over Northowram and 250 over Yeadon Tarn. This directional movement intensified the next day with massive numbers obviously leaving Norfolk to staging posts in the north of England and beyond. The following four–figure totals were noted: 1000 at Acre Hill, 2200 at Bretton Park, 1000 at Halifax, 3000 at Old Moor, 1822 over Stone and 1570 over Stainburn Moor. Elsewhere, there were 570 over Cotterdale, 500 over Handsworth, 820 over Scout Dike Res, 510 over Stainborough and 896 counted over Wilsic. Smaller counts included 250 at Allerthorpe GP, 350 over Beal Carrs, 120 over Burton Leonard, 300 over Clifton (York), 400 over Carlton Marsh, 200 over Carlton, 200 over Elland GP, 334 over Fly Flats, 220 over Horbury Wyke, 170 over Kershaw, 140 over Luddenden Dean, 225 over Northowram, 200 at North Cave, 210 at Paull, 350 over Penistone, 200 over Roundhay and the Shibden Valley, 100 over Sheffield, 480 at Sunk Island, 300 at Wheldrake Ings, 220 over Wadworth and 200 over Wormald Green. Passage was lighter on 15th February and included 120 over Boothtown, 250 over both Copmanthorpe (York) and Ferriby, 221 passing through Farnham GP and 100 over Potteric Carr.

The largest movement during the first part of the year occurred on 19th February, with many skeins again heading west or north–west. The largest counts involved: 3760 over Old Moor in just four hours, 3230 over Bretton Park, 2500 over Oxenhope, 2000 over Luddenden Dean, 2000 over Wilsic, 1600 over Carlton Marsh, 1500 over Swillington Ings, 1200 over North Cave and 1110 over Beal Carrs. In addition many three–figure counts were received from across the county including: 660 over both Swaithe and Worsbrough, 600 over Cudworth, 550 over Bardsey, 550 over Ewden Height, 500 over Litton, 500 over Dewsbury, 420 over Hirst Countney, 415 over Pure Hill, 412 over Swales Moor, 400 over Hillsborough, 400 over Rawmarsh, 400 over Bingley, 350 over Bentley, 300 over York, 280 over Huddersfield, 220 over Leeds, 150 over Rodley NR, 120 over Staveley NR, 120 over Goole and 100 at Nosterfield NR. This movement was by no means confined to inland sites, with 1100 also passing through Filey, 615 heading over Flamborough and 319 through Spurn. Skeins continued to be tracked through the county on 20th, with 600 over Nosterfield NR, 300 over Burton Leonard, 225 through Beal Carrs and 170 over Stainborough. Finally a movement on 28th February was mainly focused on the coast with 1835 north past Spurn, 180 flew past Buckton and 410 north past Filey, while 200 headed through Cowlam.

The main movement appeared to be over by March, with 100 north over Scalby Lodge on 1st, 105 over Helperthorpe and 120 through Worsbrough on 5th, 140 over North Cave on 14th, followed by 300 over Risby Park on 16th. No large skeins were recorded during April, while May records included 135 over Spurn on 9th and 200 over Nosterfield NR the next day; 150 north at Long Nab on 29th were particularly late. Finally, in June Tophill Low hosted a single on 4th, 26 flew over Strines on 7th, with a late individual dropping in at Hay–a–Park GP on 21st.

The first of the autumn appeared at Lingham Lake on 1st September. There were no further records until 11th when 19 flew west over Grassington, 44 flew south over Paull Holme Strays, 45 tracked east over Potteric Carr, 50 flew south past Spurn and 100 flew west over Sunk Island. On 17th 28 flew over Carlton Marsh and 50 headed over Sykes. On 20th two flew over Flasks Lake, 59 flew west over Lower Gorple and there were 50 at Sunk Island. The following day 60 flew north–west over Brighouse, with 48 west over Shelf Moor on 22nd (with three here on 25th) and on 23rd 60 flew over Eastfield, 150 flew over York University, 360 flew past Long Nab, with 2330 passing Spurn and 1364 over Flamborough. The following day 34 overflowed Kelk, six appeared at Old Moor and 83 were at Welwick. On 25th there were 260 on the Humber at Sunk Island and on 26th three were present at Hay–a–Park GP, 75 flew south over Hull, six were in the High Eske area, 200 flew south over Hutton–le–Hole, 26 passed over Kelk and 14 flew over Wainstalls.

Numbers steadily increased through October and larger skeins included: 270 over Yeadon Tarn on 1st, 55 east over Winterset Res on 4th, 70 north–west over Beal Carrs and York, 150 south over Kelk, 42 south over North Duffield Carrs, 41 over Ogden Res, 174 west over Old Moor, 470 flew past Scarborough Castle, 1500 south over Blacktoft Sands and 800 south over Sunk Island the next day. The wintering population around the Humber was responsible for many records around the estuary, including 4350 in the Faxfleet/Whitton Sands area on 9th October and presumably the 3000 south over Drewton (North Cave) on 17th October. Subsequently there were regular counts of up to 370 at Sunk Island, 350 at North Ferriby and 340 at Paull Holme Strays through to the year–end.

Additional October records included 150 west over Barrow on 9th, 350 overflowed Old Moor and 250 passed through Carlton Marsh on 12th, 200 flew over Stainburn and 150 headed east over North Cave on 17th and 100 flew over Gleadless Valley NR and 515 went east over Redmires Res the next day; 300 then overflowed Elland GP on 19th. Later in the month, 120 were noted passing over Wharnccliffe on 26th and two days later 300 flew east over Brighouse, 160 passed over Gouthwaite Res and 140 overflowed Darley. Passage increased on 29th October and counts included: 1945 over Thornton Moor, 879 over Caldene Fields, 200 over Langsett Res, 150 over Queensbury, 110 over Wilthorpe Marsh, 200 west over Gargrave and along the coast, 950 headed past Flamborough and 540 tracked through Filey.

A number of small movements occurred in November, including 348 over Carlton Marsh on 3rd (and 300 south–east over here on 7th). The following day, 661 flew past Flamborough, 200 passed Filey and 1539 went past Spurn. On 8th there were 250 south–east over Dalby Forest and High Eske and 500 flew over Risby Park. On 9th November 400 flew over Dalby Forest, 160 went over Kelk, 150 flew north past Long Nab, 450 were at Staindale Lake and 240 tracked over Scarborough. On 13th 300 flew over Adwick, 200 went east over Barrow, 180 flew east over Old Moor and on 14th, 150 flew east over Old Moor and 200 were at Wheldrake Ings. The next day 270 flew east over Edderthorpe Flash, with 150 east over Scout Dike Res and 238 east over Winterset Res. On 23rd 1001 flew south at Spurn and the 28th produced 300 south over Cayton Carr, 120 south–west over North Cave, 110 over Sharow, 220 over Stainburn and 140 south over Wykeham Lakes.

Movements tend to ebb by early December, so 120 over Flasks Lake, 160 east over Gunthwaite, 228 at Nosterfield NR, 300 east over Old Moor, 106 north–west over Pearson Park (Hull) and 250 over Stainborough on 5th were noteworthy. A small movement on 9th included 220 north–west over East Keswick, 170 north–west over Fairburn Ings, 180 west over Old Moor, 200 at Wombwell Ings and 130 over Wilthorpe Marsh. On 21st 250 flew west over Old Moor, 1100 flew north–west over Stainborough and 200 tracked over Winterset Res. On 23rd December 235 flew north–west over Rother Valley CP, another 200 headed over Winterset Res and 100 flew south past Filey; finally a further 250 headed south at the latter location on 24th December.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: scarce winter visitor and migrant

All records are assumed to be of the Russian breeding population *albifrons*, which winters in small numbers in southern England, unless stated otherwise, as the Greenland race *flavirostris* is a rare bird in the county.

There were just five records at the start of the year; the adult present at Hemlington Lake since late 2008 remained until 24th January. Singles associating with Pink–footed Geese were at Tophill Low on 1st January and Hempholme Lock between 1st and 3rd January. Five visited Pulfin & High Eske on 8th February and two lingered in the Long Preston area late winter and visited Hellifield Flash on 29th March.

The first of the autumn was a lone individual that flew south over Thornwick, Flamborough on 22nd October and one was present at Wykeham Lakes from 26th October to 8th November. A party of four flew south over Cromer Point on 31st October and were later seen over Scalby. In November, three were in the High Eske area on 3rd and two adults and a juvenile were present at North Cave from 4th–6th. The final records included six over Whitton Sands on 5th December, a single with Greylags and Canada Geese at Scalby Lodge Pond the following day and six (four adults and two first–winters) visited Wombwell Ings on 30th December.

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* **A**
An adult at Eccup Res on 24th January (SPS) re-appeared at Keswick Fitts on 17th February (RB).

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* **AC2C4**
Amber list: fairly common feral breeder and winter visitor. BBS 41/211

The introduced population is at record levels nationally, having doubled in the last 12 years, and the county’s largely sedentary feral population is still expanding. Seven of the top 14 sites of national importance are in the county: in rank order by five-year mean: – Nosterfield, Lower Derwent Ings, Tophill Low, Eccup Res, Humber Estuary, Bolton-on-Swale GP and Hornsea Mere. Wintering birds include migrants, but few, are from Iceland or the amber-listed north-west Scotland population.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	230	103	–	–	–	24	190	140	–	129	185	125
Blacktoft Sands	168	17	23	8	13	–	–	–	–	–	360	251
Bolton-on-Swale	682	43	39	58	–	317	–	–	–	–	–	–
Castle Howard	140	17	251	43	19	355	265	–	668	270	12	–
Eccup Res	150	4	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Fairburn Ings	90	150	100	54	104	378	314	489	480	4	9	150
Farnham GP	70	150	80	30	–	–	–	160	–	224	600	300
Flasks Lake	450	34	13	101	650	160	1600	2700	2230	2408	850	1500
Gouthwaite Res	59	29	91	78	308	576	553	11	49	57	150	53
Hay-a-Park GP	304	4	9	22	100	400	375	44	1200	350	14	510
Hornsea Mere	245	115	118	66	161	–	375	755	410	119	316	–
Lingham Lake	410	50	30	40	50	420	900	2800	200	2650	810	90
Lockwood Beck	56	24	10	4	56	73	45	0	0	0	0	10
Lower Derwent NNR	1393	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2468	–
North Cave	11	45	21	20	40	–	50	140	–	857	435	20
North Humber	447	103	350	435	549	534	524	712	730	822	670	359
Nosterfield NR	810	12	76	55	174	27	1053	450	1000	26	98	1643
Old Moor	70	60	70	71	78	30	79	70	183	113	34	42
Pulfin and High Eske	360	200	135	–	–	50	82	500	620	550	520	500
Ripon Race Course	39	156	98	35	–	288	–	–	–	–	–	–
Scaling Dam	390	94	184	105	370	564	560	618	565	604	274	440
Scorton Quarry	12	107	38	18	–	322	–	–	–	–	–	–
Staveley NR	260	253	31	55	10	–	142	1300	1100	1050	500	436
Tophill Low	1000	64	165	115	111	50	–	250	340	–	–	373
Winterset Res	86	60	50	13	64	50	51	56	70	44	55	64

In January there were 227 at Kellington on 1st, 260 on North Duffield Carrs on 3rd, 100 on Welton Waters on 8th, 158 at Scalby Lodge on 10th, 305 at Smallways on 13th, 145 at Scampston Hall and 140 at Edderthorpe Flash on 16th, 325 at Leighton Res the next day and 98 on Leeshaw Res and 100 at Ripon Parks on 28th. In February 90 fed in fields near Buttercrambe (York) on 3rd, 60 were at Allertorpe GP on 7th, 120 were in the Kelk area the following day, 103 frequented Beal Carrs on 19th, 130 visited Wombledon on 31st. However, easily the largest count during the month related to 2000 at Keswick Fitts on 17th February. In March there were 200 at Nicholson’s Lagoon (Ripon) on 4th, 250 on Marfield NR on 7th, 150 at Ripon Parks on 11th and 60 at Allertorpe GP on 15th. There were up to 50 at East Park (Hull) throughout April and May, with 59 on Brotherton Marsh on 28th May and 50 were present at Otley Wetlands on 8th June.

Breeding was reported from widespread locations, including upland moors and reservoirs and sites included: Allertorpe GP (eight pairs), Barden Moor, Cold Edge Dams (up to three pairs), Dallowgill Moor (at least 15 pairs), Farnley Res, Flamborough, Grimwith Res, Harwood Dale (two broods), Kexgill Quarry, Leventhorpe Hall, Lingham Lake (50 goslings), Lockwood Beck (ten broods), Middleton Moor, North Cave (six pairs), Otley Wetlands, Seamer Tip Pools (three broods), Swillington Ings, Scarthingwell Lake, Scaling Dam (27 broods), Stockeld Park, Skelton Lake, Struncheon Hill, Tophill Low, Watton NR, Wykeham Lakes (seven broods) and Weecher Res. There were further breeding records from several urban park areas, such as those located within York.

Post-breeding flocks started to assemble from July, with 334 on Grimwith Res, 104 at Howden and 100 in the Kelk area. In August, there were at least 2800 at Lingham Lake, 600 on Watton NR, 400 at Ellerton Ings, 200 in the Kelk Lake area, 198 at Paull Holme Strays, 80 on Wombwell Ings, 75 on Scaling Dam and 66 on Edderthorpe Flash. Maximum September counts included 750 at Watton NR, 300 on Ripon Parks, 195 on Edderthorpe Flash and 185 at Allertorpe GP. In October there were 620 at Watton NR and up to 300 on Thorne Moors, while November maxima included 700 at Wykeham Lakes, 185 at Beal Carrs and 150 on Bolton-on-Swale GP. The year closed with 1232 on Eccup Res and 217 at Howden Dyke Island in December.

Ringling studies have shown that not all Greylags over-wintering in the county are from the re-introduced population. An adult male, ringed in March 2003 at Lingham Lake, has been sighted every subsequent April at Arnarvatn, Sudur-Thingeyjar in Iceland; a distance of 1527km from the ringing site.

Hybrids
A Greylag Goose x Canada Goose appeared in East Park, Hull on 17th January, with others at Worsbrough Res on 4th October, Beal Carrs on 14th November, and occasionally at both Allertorpe GP and in York during the year.

GREATER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* **C2**
Fairly common feral breeder, migrant and winter visitor. BBS 39/211
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 380: GB threshold 375

This largely sedentary naturalised introduction continues to increase nationally.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Castle Howard	64	148	68	70	60	200	274	16	35	63	51	73
Eccup Res	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	120	40
Edderthorpe Flash	100	70	–	2	–	6	–	220	189	380	350	11
Fairburn Ings	28	209	185	126	131	233	209	687	490	–	199	–
Fewston Res	–	48	–	21	–	–	–	13	65	62	–	–
Flasks Lake	–	79	10	16	30	43	75	150	200	86	40	450
Gouthwaite Res	411	255	287	278	212	307	270	281	361	333	330	346
Hay-a-Park GP	144	12	12	19	10	109	60	103	330	124	39	110
Harewood Park	630	527	452	150	153	147	–	–	–	–	745	999
Hellifield Flash	4	1	4	–	–	–	–	3	150	244	1	90
Hemlington Lake	145	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	293	–	8	19
Hornsea Mere	177	53	92	81	–	–	115	163	145	86	148	–
Lingham Lake	51	79	47	42	28	250	183	560	190	89	210	55
Long Preston	51	193	98	12	19	2	4	133	5	119	351	–
Lower Derwent NNR	703	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1697	–
Malham Tarn	0	3	8	14	52	200	210	0	28	28	30	2
North Humber	0	12	14	13	204	305	250	420	340	220	159	0
Nosterfield NR	364	177	20	40	33	30	73	69	20	45	106	500
Old Moor	396	600	260	251	220	240	218	514	1050	280	471	470
Potteric Carr	2	20	28	63	112	70	–	–	170	–	–	–
Pugney’s CP	97	84	27	11	18	143	85	–	–	70	130	130
Scaling Dam	68	8	8	8	17	32	38	97	88	91	16	2
Swillington Ings	183	34	18	27	30	63	–	–	100	315	–	–
Winterset Res	348	101	60	49	44	196	170	543	521	50	366	446
Worsbrough Res	89	71	34	30	35	60	74	52	480	390	145	140

Some of the higher January counts included 654 at Eccup Res, 630 at Harewood Park, 300 at Broomhill Flash, 196 at Bolton-on-Swale GP, 175 at Horbury Wyke, 150 at Rother Valley CP, 147 at Eccup Res, 128 at Doncaster Lakeside and 108 at Semer Water. In February there were 200 at Horbury Wyke, 190 at Scalby Lodge and 128 on Wombwell Ings, with at least 100 on both Knotford Nook and Wheldrake Ings. The highest March totals related to 220 at Royd Moor Res, 166 at Scout Dike Res, 112 at Walshaw Dean and counts of 100 at Bretton Lake, Fly Flats, Nicholson’s Lagoon and Warley Moor Res. Hatfield Moors hosted 100 during April, while June produced 225 at Fly Flats, 223 at Warley Moor Res, 200 at Gorple Res and 100 at Castleshaw.

Over the summer breeding was reported from a large number of sites across the county, including 12 pairs at the Astley Lake/St Aidan’s complex, 14 pairs at Anglers CP and 15 pairs at Fairburn Ings.

Post breeding gatherings included 220 at Fly Flats in July and Wombwell Ings hosted 250 and Paull Holme Strays a flock of 198 during August. September’s highest counts included 1003 at Edderthorpe Flash, 1000 at Lingham Lake, 480 at Worsbrough Res, 447 at Ingbirchworth Res, 150 at Wombwell Ings, 120 at Ringstone Edge Res and 100 at Blackmoorfoot Res. In October there were 200 at Rother Valley CP and 120 on Hatfield Moor. Higher counts in the last two months of the year included: 340 on Broomhill Flash, 250 at Ingbirchworth Res, 200 at Doncaster Lakeside and 126 at Bransholme SW in November and 378 at Wombwell Ings, 214 at Scalby Lodge and 191 at Peasholm Park, Scarborough in December.

Hybrids

Two Canada x Barnacle Goose hybrids were at Anglers CP from 6th February to 17th April, with a single present on 7th June. Elsewhere a bird thought to be a Canada x Pink-footed Goose hybrid was at Tophill Low on 17th April.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* AC2E

Amber list: uncommon migrant and winter visitor Oct – March. Occasional feral breeder

Breeds in east Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard, the Baltic and high Arctic Russia, with wintering birds in eastern England from Svalbard and possibly further east.

At the start of the year, singles appeared at Gouthwaite Res from 1st to 17th January, Hay-a-Park GP on 3rd and Barmston on 7th January, when two were also at Tophill Low. Elsewhere Scampston Park hosted a duo on 16th January and singles were at North Cave from 17th–26th and East Lea (Filey) on 22nd. More unusually, 46 flew north over Driffield on 27th January and a single appeared at Thornton-le-Dale the same day.

In February six visited Nosterfield NR on 7th, 23 flew over Wheldrake on 14th, one was at Scalby Lodge Pond on 27th, with two at East Lea the following day. In March presumably the same two were at nearby Primrose Valley on 5th, one flew east over Fairburn Ings on 8th and what may have been the same bird re-appeared there on 22nd. Singles then visited North Duffield Carrs on 23rd and Farnham GP on 28th March. The final spring records related to a single at Malham Tarn on 2nd April (only the seventh record for the area), two were at Farnham GP from the first week of April until 3rd May, two appeared at Gouthwaite Res on 6th May and a duo graced Scalby Lodge Pond on 9th May.

In the second half of the year, singles visited Fairburn Ings and North Cave on 12th and Scalby Lodge Pond on 15th September. A larger flock of 37 were present at Lighthazzles on 17th, Flasks Lake hosted a single on 20th, six were at Paull Holme Strays on 23rd and a single headed south past Spurn on 30th September.

Coastal records at the end of September/early October are probably those most likely to relate to wild individuals and October opened with singles at Spurn, Flamborough and heading north past Long Nab on 1st. Two were recorded at Filey Brigg on 4th, on the same day that the single at Northcliff Marsh, Flamborough was joined by another four and a further 21 flew north past Flamborough. Three flew south past Spurn on 9th October, with a lone individual heading past Filey the next day.

Elsewhere a single appeared intermittently in the Pulfen Bog/Tophill area from 11th October–22nd November, four were at Tophill Low on 13th October, one at Walsden on 14th, one dropped onto Peasholm Park on 25th and a single associated with Canada Geese at Fairburn Ings from 31st October–15th December. In November a single remained in residence at Wykeham Lakes from 5th–8th November, two were at North Cave on 12th/13th and 22nd, and Seamer Road Mere hosted one from 23rd–26th November. In December singles appeared at Scaling Dam on 4th, Primrose Valley on 10th and Wykeham Lakes on 13th.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* A

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* A

Amber list and UK BAP species: uncommon migrant and winter visitor

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 2000: GB threshold 981

Breeds in Arctic Russia and over the last decade, it winters in declining numbers on the southern North Sea coast; however, the numbers of UK wintering birds increased for the third consecutive year, and numbers on the Humber were the highest ever recorded.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Spurn Point	300	1000	700	244	280	55	0	0	5	210	250	300
North Humber	2	588	549	296	99	1	0	0	0	0	59	36

Most records came from either the Spurn area or along the northern edge of the Humber estuary and monthly totals are summarised in the table. Otherwise records were scarce early on, with four south off Filey on 1st January and a single on Flamborough from 4th–10th. More unusually, one accompanied Canada Geese at Orgreave from 1st January through until 1st February. Singles graced Flamborough on 27th and 28th January, and three flew north past Filey on 1st February. Inland Great Heck hosted a single from 3rd–10th February and five then roosted on the ice at North Cave on 8th. After a single at Knottingley on 14th, it or another toured several locations in the Broomhill Flash/Old Moor area from 17th–25th February. A single accompanied Canada Geese at Royd Moor Res on 1st March, before it later relocated to Ingbirchworth Res; it was still present the following day and represented the third record for the site. A subsequent lull ended with a single flying past Flamborough on 6th April, six flew north past Scalby Mills on 10th April and finally 15 headed east over Spurn on 2nd June.

The first of the autumn headed south past Marine Drive, Scarborough on 4th September, followed by singles past Spurn on 8th and Flamborough on 14th, on which date three flew north past Hornsea. Two were off Long Nab on 17th with three past South Gare on 19th September. Coastal passage increased in October, starting with one north past Long Nab on 9th, 40 past Spurn on 11th, five flew north past Long Nab on 12th, 50 headed past Spurn on 14th and a single lingered at Filey CP from 19th–25th. After a single flew south past Marine Drive on 23rd, eight flew east at Hummersea on 24th and seven tracked past Marine Drive on 30th. There was a marked movement on 31st with 98 recorded passing Flamborough, 34 counted off Filey and 18 flew past Long Nab. Odd birds then continued to be recorded at the main coastal watchpoints throughout November and December. In December three dropped in at Scalby Lodge Pond on 9th and a single appeared at Scaling Dam on 15th.

The following were not attributed to race. A flock of 49 heading north over Wheldrake Ings during the evening on 22nd April were unusual.

Pale-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* A

Amber list: scarce migrant and winter visitor

A small population from Svalbard of about 3350 wintered at Lindisfarne in the first winter period, probably accounting for overshooting migrants in Yorkshire, although it is possible that some could also have come from the East Canadian population, a few of which winter west of the Pennines and some 28,000 in Northern Ireland.

A single accompanied the Dark-bellied Brents in the Spurn area from 28th January, with regular sightings thereafter, including six in March, up to three in April/May and a single sporadically in June and July. Elsewhere a single headed south at Filey on 1st February and two flew past Flamborough on 21st February.

A lone bird on the Humber at Spurn on 8th September was the first to return, followed by five north past Long Nab and Flamborough and five south and three north past Filey on 14th. Two were off Flamborough on 17th September and three passed the same location on 30th September. In October two flew north past Marine Drive on 2nd, one tracked north past Long Nab on 4th and Flamborough hosted a single on 14th. In the latter half of October four flew past Flamborough and a single tracked past Scalby Mills on 17th followed by a lone individual that rested on the sea at Filey on 27th.

In November a single headed past Flamborough on 2nd and another fed in fields at Cromer Point on 7th. The year’s best count related to ten that flew south past Spurn on 15th November, on which date two accompanied Dark-bellied Brents in fields at Holmpton. A single headed south past Filey on 21st and four flew north past Long Nab on 30th November. A single at Swillington Ings on 12th December represented the first pale-bellied Brent to appear at the site. The final record referred to two on playing fields at Marske on 31st December.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca* C1E*

16,14,29,19,25

Rare visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country/local escape: has occasionally bred

A feral breeder in the UK since the 18th century, with the main concentration in Norfolk, and colonies also in the Netherlands and Belgium. The national population has doubled since 2000/01.

A single remained at Burton Riggs near Scarborough from 4th–17th January, a single appeared on sporadic dates at Thrybergh CP from 11th January to 29th November and three remained in flooded fields at Cattleholme, Kelk Beck from 29th January–1st March. A single also lingered at Nosterfield NR between January and March. Elsewhere, one that flew west over Old Moor on 18th February was relocated the same day at Wombwell Ings. In March singles visited Harewood Park on 15th and Hornsea Mere from 22nd March to 1st April. Two were at East Park, Hull from 5th–9th April, with one remaining until 19th. One flew south over the Triangle at Spurn on 11th, but turned round and flew back north. Another stayed at Wykeham Lakes from 28th to 30th April, followed by a single at Scaling Dam on 1st May.

Later in the year, one took up residence around the Nosterfield complex from 12th July to the year-end. Similarly one visited several waters around Pulfin Bog/Tophill Low from 11th August-6th September. Eccup Res hosted two on 25th August and a single lingered at Edderthorpe Flash from 20th September to 24th October and made sporadic visits to nearby Old Moor. Three visited Harewood Park on 11th October, with two still present on 22nd November. Flamborough’s second ever appeared in a stubble field at Thornwick on 24th October and lingered in the area until 2nd November and the final record related to two in fields east of Ryther on 13th December.

COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* **A**
Amber list: uncommon breeder and fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 12/211
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 3000: GB threshold 782
Nationally has slowly declined since 1997.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	2	12	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Blacktoft Sands	10	36	27	22	29	13	2	30	–	3	–	–
Fairburn Ings	24	26	34	54	32	13	8	1	4	1	8	8
Lower Derwent NNR	84	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
North Cave	83	4	30	16	–	–	–	–	–	1	0	10
North Humber	634	1221	1262	652	502	347	1878	2988	2524	860	745	548
Old Moor	3	7	16	7	8	2	1	0	0	0	2	10
Potteric Carr	5	15	12	10	12	12	–	–	–	–	–	–
South Tees	92	58	72	163	98	56	44	49	66	71	32	1
Spurn Point	22	40	27	32	16	85	88	580	660	200	74	75
Swillington Ings	7	8	2	1	9	7	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tophill Low	5	8	12	4	9	5	–	–	–	–	–	–

Typically the largest counts occurred along the Humber, with 720 at Sunk Island in January, 110 at Brough Haven and 310 at Sunk Island in February and further downstream 300 at Welwick; 140 gathered at Saltend in March. Numbers began to decline from the end of March and by April just 100 remained at Sunk Island. However, in June numbers once again increased at Sunk Island, with a best count of 180; there were also 39 at Paull Holme Strays. Away from the Humber, larger counts included 30 at Potteric Carr, 22 at North Duffield Carrs and 16 at Nicholson’s Lagoon, Ripon in January. There were 17 at Smallways and ten on flood waters at Leventhorpe in February. March tallies included 61 at Marfield NR, 50 at Thorganby Ings, 20 at Smallways, 15 at Potteric Carr and 12 at Nosterfield NR. Counts in April included 44 at Smallways and 30 at Wheldrake Ings and May records included 78 at Lingham Lake, 36 at Smallways and 20 on Wheldrake Ings.

Breeding pairs were widespread and included: Beal Carrs (brood of four), Broomhill Flash (pair with seven young in May), Carthick Wood (brood of eight), Flasks Lake, Lingham Lake (23 young), Lower Derwent Valley, Moor Monkton (brood of seven), North Cave (two pairs, 22 young, but most did not survive), Nosterfield NR (five broods), Scalby Lodge Pond (brood of eight), Seamer Tip Pools (brood of five), Staveley NR, Skelton Lake (four broods) and Tudworth Flash (four young). Elsewhere there were at least two broods at both Bewholme and Tophill Low. Two adults were accompanied by 16 young at Paull Holme Strays on 8th July and there were at least five broods, totaling 33 young, at Fairburn Ings.

July saw the usual post-breeding moult gatherings, with the majority of higher counts again from the Humber, with up to 2400 at Sunk Island and 1300 at Brough Haven. In August 2100 were recorded at Sunk Island, but there were much lower counts from other sites along the estuary, with 74 logged at Spurn and 24 at Paull Holme Strays; inland Edderthorpe Flash hosted 21 during August. September produced 210 at Spurn on 1st, 230 at Welwick and an inland best of 16 at Broomhill Flash. There were several double-figure counts at inland sites in December with: 38 on Flasks Lake, 26 at Ellerton Ings, 16 at Potteric Carr and ten at Swillington Ings.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata* **C1E***
Scarce feral breeder/local escape/visitor from populations elsewhere in country. BBS 1/211
Britain’s largely sedentary feral population has increased. There is some evidence of seasonal migration in late March to May and October/November, but local introductions, especially at Harewood Park, may mostly account for the county’s increasing feral population.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Adel Dam	–	–	2	–	1	–	4	2	–	–	–	–
Golden Acre Park	–	–	3	–	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Harewood Park	11	11	16	10	1	14	–	–	–	60	–	–
Hackness	–	2	3	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	36	30
Strid Wood	–	–	–	2	3	–	–	–	–	14	–	–

The population is thought to be on the increase as it expands from Harewood Park, where the maximum of 60 was recorded on 11th October. At the start of the year, two males and a female were on Abbeydale Industrial Estate, Sheffield on 1st January, single females were on the river Holme at Brockholes on 2nd, at Netherwood from 4th–9th and a lone individual appeared at Pearson Park on 17th January. A female stayed at Tophill Low from 29th January to 1st March. In February, a single lingered on the river Aire at Bingley from 4th–25th; a male on Margrove Ponds on 18th February possibly originated from the collection on nearby Priory Pond; another male visited Harthill Res on 28th.

In March a pair was on the river Wharfe at Ilkley on 2nd and a single was on the river Calder at Healey on 16th. In April a single at Pickering on 13th was followed by lone drakes at Wilthorpe Marsh and Roundhay Park on 17th, Rodley NR on 19th and a drake frequented the Leeds/Liverpool Canal at Shipley on 25th. In May two were at Mill Bank on 5th, singles visited both Graves Park and Skipton SW on 10th and a male was on the rocks at Filey Brigg on 12th May.

Breeding was confirmed along the River Wharfe, with family parties noted at Barden Bridge, Howgill and Water’s Laithe on 30th May. South of Barden Bridge, breeding was also suspected at Strid Wood and was confirmed on both Adel Dam and Eccup Res. In the east, the Hackness/Hilla Green areas west of Scarborough hosted birds throughout the year, with a pair in Forge Valley on 29th March, present in Harwood Dale during May/June and breeding confirmed at Mowthorpe.

In the second half a single appeared at Sandall Park, Doncaster on 17th August, a female was at Hay-a-Park GP on 23rd August, with two males at Ryburn on 13th September and a female at Allerthorpe GP on 26th/27th September. In October three frequented Elland GP from 7th, decreasing to two on 13th, with two at Lindley Wood Res on 11th and one at Swinsty Res on the same date. In October there were two on Sandall Park throughout and a male was at Tophill Low over 28th/29th. A lone male was at Otley Wetlands on 17th October (and again on 22nd November); a pair was at Fewston Res on 11th, with another male at Harthill Res on 28th November. Numbers also built up at Hackness during November and peaked at 26. At the year-end, one was discovered on a pond at Withernsea on 2nd December, Seamer Road Mere hosted a drake on 20th December and three visited Holmfirth on 24th December.



Common Shelduck
Richard Tite

WIGEON *Anas penelope* **A**
Amber list: rare breeder; common migrant and winter visitor
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 15000: GB threshold 4060
 Breeds across northern Europe and Asia, wintering to the south.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blacktoft Sands	171	306	158	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	182	160
Bolton-on-Swale	610	246	406	13	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Castle Howard	364	284	52	3	1	–	–	2	19	69	292	121
Eccup Res	472	441	376	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	443
Edderthorpe Flash	131	77	–	2	–	–	1	4	46	126	130	40
Fairburn Ings	206	78	106	30	2	2	1	1	86	153	162	100
Hay-a-Park GP	204	133	93	4	1	–	–	3	40	94	55	225
Hellifield Flash	260	132	126	12	–	–	–	4	61	112	450	350
Hornsea Mere	418	315	245	39	34	–	10	39	210	145	295	–
Long Preston	334	171	522	2	–	–	–	–	32	50	727	283
Lower Derwent NNR	9614	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10605	–
Malham Tarn	90	70	70	45	0	0	0	1	2	12	40	45
North Humber	1647	571	448	312	14	0	0	0	43	103	626	183
Nosterfield NR	693	447	412	140	4	4	3	8	41	188	335	1495
Old Moor	683	698	610	230	10	4	3	2	120	290	441	469
Pulfin Bog	480	620	350	26	1	1	1	–	54	178	420	400
Scalby Mills	380	440	460	19	–	–	–	–	11	123	140	800
Swillington Ings	141	100	24	4	4	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tophill Low	1370	1135	283	8	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Winterset Res	314	283	191	30	0	0	0	4	100	208	165	335

The largest numbers at the start of the year were in the Lower Derwent Valley with up to 1900 at North Duffield Carrs during January/February, with at least 1000 still present in March; in addition at least 500–1000 also resided at Wheldrake Ings at the same time. Tophill Low hosted 1300 in January and there were also large counts from several sites along the Humber. Away from these areas there were 120 at Wombwell Ings in January, 268 here in February and 320 in March. Elsewhere in January there were 320 below Gristhorpe Cliffs north of Filey on 3rd January, 250 on Rother Valley CP on 8th, 130 at Cleasby Pond on 29th and 119 on Smallways. Maxima during February included 120 on the sea off Primrose Valley, 79 on Grimwith Res and 75 at Castleford.

The only evidence of breeding came from Midhope Res, where a female was present with three ducklings in June. Three probable pairs were present in the Lower Derwent Valley, but no young were noted.

Post-breeding coastal passage started with ten passing Long Nab on 17th July, with a single heading south off Spurn the next day. In September 18 flew past Barmston on 9th, 91 tracked past Flamborough on 14th and 117 flew north at Long Nab the next day. Passage peaked in October and some of the higher day totals included: 510 past Spurn on 10th, 488 past Flamborough and 609 off Spurn on 14th; 330 flew past Spurn on 15th and 335 were counted passing Filey on 19th. The largest movement however, occurred on the last day of the month, when 180 flew south past Long Nab, 576 headed past Filey, 601 tracked past Flamborough and 2540 were logged passing Spurn. In total Spurn logged 5015 south, 251 north and 376 in off the sea between July and the end of the year.

High counts in the latter half of the year included 1000 at Bubwith Ings during November and December and nearby up to 800 at Bank Island, 700 at North Duffield Carrs and 430 on Thorganby Ings. Elsewhere the highest October counts were 200 on Skipwith Common, 174 on Welton Waters, 100 at Brough Airfield, 93 at Otley Wetlands and 61 on Thornton Moor Res. Totals in the final month included 234 on Cononley Ings and 160 on Wombwell Ings on 2nd, 130 on flood water at Allerston Loft Marshes and a massive count of 4450 at Tophill Low on 27th December.

Five individuals ringed at North Duffield Carrs since 2005 were recovered during April and May in Russia, the furthest being 3845 km away, at Troitsa, Khanty-Mansi (Tyumen).

GADWALL *Anas strepera* **AC**
Amber list: uncommon resident breeder; winter visitor and passage migrant. BBS 2/211
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 600: GB threshold 171
 Has increased nationally and locally for thirty years.

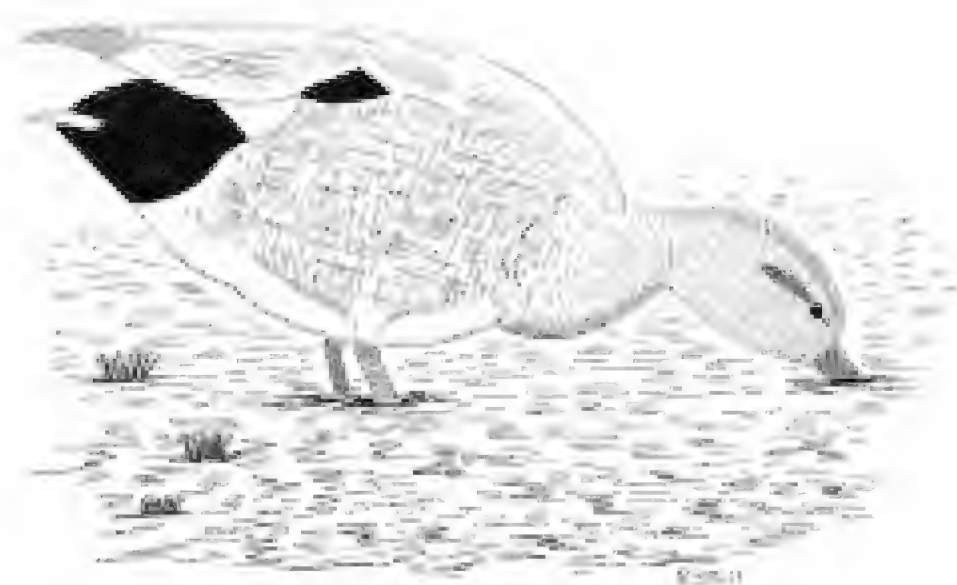
Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blacktoft Sands	8	24	13	6	30	22	–	4	12	–	2	4
Castle Howard	21	11	5	3	5	–	–	1	7	41	55	46
Catcliffe Flash	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	8	1	–
Edderthorpe Flash	39	17	–	42	–	69	32	185	167	170	135	10
Fairburn Ings	29	32	49	121	148	337	98	270	340	296	90	90
Hay-a-Park	57	32	6	6	3	–	–	12	10	24	46	30
Hornsea Mere	123	83	110	64	29	–	74	118	135	86	86	–
Lower Derwent NNR	95	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	44	–
North Humber	78	85	18	6	11	7	5	46	12	0	39	45
North Cave	58	25	24	18	16	–	–	–	–	68	12	42
Nosterfield NR	9	13	19	25	18	35	16	13	9	19	13	6
Old Moor	145	202	204	190	186	184	200	240	210	180	210	235
Rodley NR	14	10	9	3	–	1	–	5	17	23	16	16
Potteric Carr	183	133	95	75	76	93	–	–	–	–	–	–
Skelton Lake	20	28	68	10	–	9	–	–	67	–	14	33
South Tees	12	21	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	53	24
Swillington Ings	166	142	40	63	68	102	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tophill Low	19	82	50	36	39	19	–	–	–	–	–	–
Winterset Res	98	21	37	17	13	5	3	10	119	171	100	175

At the start of the year January totals included up to 31 at Farnham GP, 45 at Potteric Carr, 51 at Saltmarshe Delph, 23 at Scampston Hall and 56 at Welton Water. In February there were up to 64 at Mickletown Ings and in March there were peaks of 38 at Wombwell Ings, 25 at Scampston Hall, 16 at Paull Holme Strays and 15 on both Thorne Moors and Carlton Marsh.

Over the summer breeding was reported from Broomhill Flash (two pairs), Carlton Marsh (two pairs), Edderthorpe Flash (eleven pairs), Farnham GP (two pairs), Flasks Lake (one pair) and 21 broods at Fairburn Ings. Elsewhere, four pairs bred at North Cave, two pairs at Nosterfield NR and breeding was confirmed at Old Moor. There were also six pairs at Potteric Carr, one pair at Sherburn-in-Elmet, five pairs at Skelton Lake, at least twelve pairs on Swillington Ings and a single pair on Thorne Moors. At least 22 broods were recorded from the Lower Derwent Valley.

Post-breeding there were highs of 46 at Saltmarshe Delph, 60 on Watton NR and 33 on Welton Waters in August. The following month produced 88 on Saltholme Delph, 50 on Welton Water and 48 on Broomhill Flash. Maxima over the final quarter then included 54 at Bransholme SW (November), 32 on Carlton Marsh (October), 85 at Saltmarshe Delph (December) and 70 at Welton Water (October).



Gadwall •
 Russ Boland

TEAL *Anas crecca* **A**
Amber list: rare breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/211
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 5000: GB threshold 1920

Breeds from Iceland east to Siberia, with a small British population. Numbers wintering in the county can fluctuate annually quite dramatically, probably depending on weather conditions on the continent, but the overall trend has been upwards.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blacktoft Sands	850	703	84	23	–	8	6	198	118	530	378	380
Beal Carrs	288	300	104	59	–	–	–	–	–	60	134	155
Castle Howard	143	257	62	3	–	–	–	–	77	70	165	315
Edderthorpe Flash	401	380	–	37	–	1	–	109	95	159	170	140
Fairburn Ings	680	102	127	111	4	27	36	171	–	–	–	–
Filey Dams	156	165	25	7	–	2	–	30	35	60	–	180
Gouthwaite Res	261	106	87	19	7	43	11	248	787	770	183	132
Hellifield Flash	24	15	30	36	–	–	–	38	34	158	30	80
Hornsea Mere	67	115	36	9	14	–	–	160	385	106	125	–
Long Preston	57	175	127	24	2	1	4	50	94	81	86	45
Lower Derwent NNR	3393	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3751	–
North Cave	550	296	116	–	–	–	–	–	–	53	353	355
North Humber	1281	1173	503	40	0	10	31	260	181	617	559	480
Nosterfield NR	321	160	100	62	2	16	18	33	26	148	451	1910
Old Moor	649	397	300	182	6	40	32	140	304	294	224	219
Potteric Carr	517	198	121	45	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	615
Scaling Dam	90	45	22	7	10	6	5	15	45	173	174	192
South Tees	145	126	35	10	0	0	0	0	130	85	34	145
Swillington Ings	157	62	26	33	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tophill Low	467	323	146	36	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
Winterset Res	120	71	21	15	0	4	0	10	47	38	13	27

Although widely distributed in winter most large flocks were confined to the locations listed in the table. However, January maxima did include 120 at Eccup Res, 115 at Scalby Lodge, 135 at Scampston Hall, 420 on the Humber at Sunk Island, 178 on Wombwell Ings and 101 at Wykeham Lakes. Bolton-on-Swale GP hosted 168 in February GP, with 160 at Potter Brompton Carr and 200 at Saltend during the same month. The Lower Derwent Valley attracted 600 at both North Duffield Carrs and Wheldrake Ings, with 80 at nearby Skipwith Common; Wheldrake Ings then attracted a minimum of 2000 during March.

Evidence of breeding for such a secretive species is always difficult to prove, but there were six confirmed breeding attempts. Sites included Scaling Dam, where a female was present with six ducklings on 23rd May, though only two remained by 13th June. Breeding was also confirmed at Waupley Moor, where a pair was present with six ducklings on 30th June and there were three ducklings at Gouthwaite Res in May; the first successful breeding in the Harrogate area since 2005. Elsewhere, there was a brood of six ducklings at Langsett Res, a brood of two on Midhope Res and a pair was accompanied by three ducklings at Hatfield Moors. A pair was also suspected of attempting to breed at Malham Tarn and pairs were seen in suitable habitat at Upper Barden Res in early June and on Dallowgill Moor.

Post-breeding passage along the coast started with three in Jackson’s Bay, Scarborough on 11th June, with small numbers passing Spurn during the month. In July eight flew north past Long Nab on 9th and 45 headed past Spurn on 15th. Unusually high numbers were noted off Spurn in the second half of August, with 1094 logged on 20th and 436 on 24th, with 238 heading past Flamborough on the same date. This large movement continued through the autumn, with 1060 passing Spurn and 202 flying past Flamborough on 3rd September and 148 off Marine Drive the following day; 331 tracked past Spurn on 8th and 492 were logged there on the last day of September. In October, 110 were in Filey Bay on 14th, with notable passage on 31st including 49 past Long Nab, 221 past Flamborough, 196 heading south past Filey and 1020 logged passing Spurn. Between the beginning of June and the year-end, a total of 8644 flew south past Spurn and 525 headed north.

In the final half of the year there were 200 on Thorne Moors on 30th August and up to 330 at Sunk Island during the next month. Notable counts during the final three months included: 300 at Allerston Loft Marishes (December); 450 at Bubwith Ings (November); 202 at Cononley Ings (December); 232 at Eccup Res (December); 320 at Tophill Low (November) and 110 at Wombwell Ings (December). In the Lower Derwent up to 350 were present at Bank Island and 750 at Bubwith Ings giving an indication of the huge numbers undoubtedly present along the whole river system.

Ringing recoveries during the year included a first-year female, ringed at North Duffield in March 2003, and recovered in March at Fauskangerpollen, Askoy, Norway and one shot in January at Finningley Airfield near Doncaster, that had been ringed as an adult male in November 2007 at Eendenkooi, Oude Sluis, in the Netherlands.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis* **A** 3,2,3,5,0
Rare autumn and winter visitor from North America; 65 previous records
Breeds across North America and winters in southern USA, Central America and the West Indies, but a regular British visitor.

The year began with the drake lingering in the Dearne Valley from 2008; initially it stayed at Edderthorpe Flash from 1st–3rd January, making a brief appearance at Broomhill Flash on 4th before returning to Edderthorpe Flash the next day, where it remained until 19th; finally it moved to Wombwell Ings on 20th January where it remained until 23rd. Elsewhere, presumably the same drake initially found in the previous November returned to North Cave from 20th January to 3rd February, reappearing again on 20th February and was finally present on 15th March.

North Duffield Carrs then hosted a drake on 6th/7th April, with a male in the Bubwith Ings/North Duffield Carrs area on 30th November and again on 2nd December (TDo *et al.*); these were both presumed returning individuals.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* **AC**
Amber list: fairly common breeder; common migrant and winter visitor
BBS 118/211: +36% (+33) 1995–2009, +34% (–1) 2008–09
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 20000: GB threshold 3520

There continues to be a long-term decline in winter numbers based on WeBS, possibly due to decreased immigration. The number of released birds may be causing the slight increases shown in BBS figures since 1996.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Albert Park	235	–	121	102	103	132	45	193	184	192	236	266
Beal Carrs	135	66	104	71	111	183	350	395	15	171	118	30
Blacktoft Sands	158	59	27	26	22	155	45	28	274	184	150	187
Castle Howard	198	155	106	54	56	95	272	209	254	297	301	455
Edderthorpe Flash	306	200	–	40	–	112	300	652	240	380	280	160
Fairburn Ings	201	208	207	205	200	435	449	351	–	–	115	–
Golden Acre	206	181	163	–	140	–	161	171	176	–	161	212
Gouthwaite Res	509	145	116	141	135	196	146	525	745	505	358	456
Hornsea Mere	245	210	240	118	149	–	185	210	260	315	280	–
Lingham Lake	310	167	44	18	21	32	63	150	48	142	46	480
Lower Derwent NNR	2001										1536	
North Cave	132	31	17	–	–	–	–	–	–	166	276	361
North Humber	683	526	293	138	234	467	137	161	600	382	565	450
Nosterfield NR	100	46	76	26	35	86	95	201	196	229	218	250
Ogden Res	144	144	80	38	28	47	72	94	82	111	53	145
Old Moor	195	201	155	130	152	159	241	391	450	228	215	149
Potteric Carr	363	115	122	64	139	177	–	–	–	–	–	945
Pulfin Bog	205	–	–	50	45	110	–	238	–	–	340	–
Rodley NR	23	30	28	30	22	33	87	29	22	71	10	32
Scaling Dam	161	150	26	13	20	32	66	114	90	140	168	214
South Tees	24	18	25	13	15	11	15	13	34	12	24	16
Swillington Ings	179	78	33	38	82	116	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tophill Low	420	207	143	100	129	138	–	–	–	–	–	646
Winterset Res	209	41	48	85	78	88	112	190	265	99	102	140
Yeadon Tarn	184	341	108	110	49	127	–	–	–	313	–	–

In addition to the counts detailed in the table there were 270 at Allerthorpe, 494 on Dale Dyke Res, 240 on Harewood Park, 203 on the canal at Riddlesden, 300 at Rother Valley CP and 270 on the river Ure at Hawes during January, and 288 on Leighton Res in February.

Post–breeding gatherings included 500 at Hebden Gill, 500 on Mossy Moor, 300 on Thorne Moors and 370 at Tophill Low in August. Maximum counts in the last four months of the year included 163 on Hellifield Flash, 167 on Lindley Wood Res, 200 on Otley Wetlands and 276 at Ulley CP in September. In October there were 254 at Copgrove (Knaresborough), 360 on Grimwith Res and 247 at Harewood Park. During the final month of the year there were highs of 221 at Eccup Res, 200 on Gouthwaite Res and 180 on Worsbrough Res.

There were two interesting ringing recoveries: an adult female ringed at Wheldrake Ings in July 2003 was re–caught 205 km away at Caerlaverock WWT in March and a first–year male ringed in December 2006 at Das Dunas de Santa Jacint, Portugal was present on Hatfield Moors in November, having moved 1546 km.

Hybrid

A bird at Elland GP on 4th and 12th April was thought to be a hybrid Mallard x Gadwall.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* A

Amber list: rare breeder, uncommon migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 600: GB threshold 279

Nationally, numbers have been fairly stable.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	2	22	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
North Humber	164	52	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	38
Lower Derwent NNR	298	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	30	–
Long Preston	28	26	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	22	–

Away from the main sites, some of the higher counts included up to 11 at Hellifield Flash in January (increasing to 14 in February), 12 on Swillington Ings, seven at Tophill Low and six at Potteric Carr in January. Elsewhere, there were eight on Brough Airfield in February followed by 29 at Fairburn Ings and four at Old Moor during March.

Coastal passage was light early in the year, starting with two heading north past Spurn on 6th January, five tracking south there on 20th and eight passing Flamborough on 27th January. Three then flew south off Spurn on 28th February, with two similarly on 4th April.

Autumn passage along the coast began with two at Filey Dams on 19th August, followed by six at Spurn on 22nd, and a lone individual heading past Flamborough on 30th August. Singles then flew past Long Nab on 3rd September and Filey on 13th; the next day 24 headed north past Marine Drive, with four passing Flamborough. The last September record related to eight that flew past Atwick on 16th. Passage increased in October, starting with an impressive 37 south past Spurn on 6th, followed by three tracking past Filey on 10th, when an additional 30 flew south at Spurn. Singles were logged off Flamborough on 18th, 19th, 20th and 28th, with 28 flying past Spurn on 30th. Finally, on 31st one headed past Long Nab, five flew past Flamborough and 26 were noted south at Spurn. The last seawatch records related to two that flew past Flamborough on 4th November and 1st December.

Inland a single graced Redcar Tarn on 5th August, followed by a female at Wombwell Ings on 20th, four at Staveley NR the following day, a pair at Tophill Low on 23rd, nine were at Kexgill on 24th and lone individuals visited Nosterfield NR on 25th and Hornsea Mere on 27th. September maxima included: up to ten at Fairburn Ings; eight at Blacktoft Sands; seven at Winterset Res; six at Scaling Dam; five at Eccup Res and four on Broomhill Flash. Some of the higher counts in the last three months included up to 15 at Fairburn Ings, six at both Welton Waters and Old Moor during October and five on Thornton Moor Res on 10th October. In December, there were up to eight on Hornsea Mere and 11 on Flasks Lake, but of more significance was a flock of 40 passing over Skipton SW and Cononley Ings on 12th December.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* A

Amber list: rare breeding summer visitor and scarce migrant March – October

The numbers breeding in the UK tend to fluctuate, with up to 90 pairs estimated to be present nationwide in 2007; it spends the winter in central Africa.

A legacy of the previous year, the female remained at Old Moor until at least 19th January, with a drake noted sporadically at Hornsea Mere from 18th January–26th March.

In March, Filey Dams hosted the first spring migrant, with a drake present on 12th, which was then followed by five at Nosterfield NR on 14th. The latter half of March produced: four at North Duffield Carrs on 18th; a pair at Rother Valley CP from 22nd–27th March; a pair at Wheldrake Ings from 22nd March–17th April; a drake at Barmston on 22nd; a drake took up residence at Potteric Carr from 23rd March until at least 18th April; another drake appeared at Pulfin Bog on 24th March. In addition, a pair also arrived in Harwood Dale on 27th March and remained until 18th April.

Fairburn Ings hosted two from 9th April, with up to four present there later in the month and a pair stayed at Swine Moor from 10th April–3rd May. Lone drakes also visited Treeton Dyke on 10th and Blacktoft Sands from 11th–19th April, with a pair at Spurn also on 11th April. In the latter half of April Pulfin Bog hosted a drake on 18th, and another stayed at Nosterfield NR from 23rd April–3rd May. A pair lingered at Snaygill Ings from 24th April to 1st May and, finally, a drake graced Kiln Lake on 28th April.

Migrants continued to appear in May including singles passing Flamborough on 2nd and 23rd May; however, several records from inland sites could have been indicative of breeding attempts. During the summer there were occasional sightings of either drakes or pairs from Edderthorpe Flash, Fairburn Ings, Old Moor, Lower Derwent Valley (two probable pairs), Potteric Carr, Pulfin Bog, Swillington Ings and Swine Moor.

Individuals started to relocate in late summer, with many sites recording their last during September. An eclipse drake visited Nosterfield NR on 2nd September; Old Moor hosted three the next day, when there were also three juveniles at Tophill Low. Elsewhere, an eclipse male was again at Nosterfield NR on 6th, with a juvenile present on 12th. A drake flew south past Flamborough on 15th and juveniles visited Anglers CP on 16th and Hornsea Mere the following day. There were a handful of records in October: a juvenile appeared at Rother Valley CP on 3rd; a single was present at Fairburn Ings the next day; Watton NR attracted a juvenile on 14th; a single was at Old Moor on 16th and finally, one appeared at Fairburn Ings on 31st October.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* A

Amber list: scarce breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 400: GB threshold 148

The wintering population appears to be stable.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blacktoft Sands	–	19	16	26	10	16	5	30	26	64	14	9
Catcliffe Flash	10	14	13	–	–	–	–	–	13	7	1	3
Edderthorpe Flash	4	21	35	13	–	4	4	122	195	195	65	8
Fairburn Ings	375	150	83	63	6	22	21	214	420	550	–	–
Hellifield Flash	8	5	27	4	–	–	–	2	17	21	20	6
Hornsea Mere	87	75	60	39	26	–	46	64	31	48	49	80
Lower Derwent NNR	142										55	
North Humber	7	19	8	19	13	6	0	13	26	64	26	19
North Cave	7	5	22	8	4	–	–	14	–	20	5	11
Nosterfield NR	16	7	33	23	13	7	2	6	7	6	4	6
Old Moor	70	48	90	41	35	49	40	116	106	121	98	36
Potteric Carr	65	66	41	24	4	14	–	–	40	52	–	–
Pugney’s CP	23	51	16	–	–	2	–	–	–	11	8	20
South Tees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	19	7	5
Swillington Ings	159	43	112	25	15	16	–	–	–	160	212	–
Tophill Low	86	59	36	22	11	4	–	50	–	–	–	–
Winterset Res	37	9	8	10	5	2	5	16	62	146	158	84

Some of the higher counts early in the year included ten at both Broomhill Flash and Paull Holme Strays and 18 at Sprotbrough Flash in January. There were 31 at Anlaby Common and 34 at Bransholme SW in February, 12 appeared on Thorne Moors on 15th March and Wombwell Ings hosted 11 on 20th May.

Coastal passage was light starting with a pair at Scalby Ness on 1st January, three on the Canal Scrape at Spurn on 11th/12th and four flew south past Spurn on 29th January. Five flew south past Spurn on 1st March, two

headed past Flamborough on 6th and 10th April and seven flew south there the next day. Two were in North Bay, Scarborough on 18th April and up to 14 were logged passing Spurn during April. The final spring record related to two passing Flamborough on 1st May.

At least 30 pairs were confirmed breeding from ten widely scattered sites, including a pair at Anglers CP for the first time. It was a poor breeding season at both Edderthorpe Flash (one brood) and Nosterfield NR, (five pairs, only one brood of five fledged). Elsewhere, there were single broods on Flasks Lake, Potteric Carr (four young) and at Watton NR (one young). At least two pairs at North Cave raised just five young, seven pairs were at Swillington Ings and three broods (ten young) were produced at Tophill Low. The Lower Derwent Valley remained the stronghold with at least 13 broods, totaling 54 young reported.

Return passage along the coast began in July when a single was noted passing Spurn on 20th, two headed north past Long Nab on 29th and ten flew past Cromer Point, Scarborough on 31st. Three flew past Flamborough on 1st August and 25 were logged heading past Spurn on 20th August. Away from Spurn the best movement during the autumn referred to six off Filey and nine passing Flamborough on 31st October. Overall passage through Spurn was considered above average, with a total of 182 recorded heading south and nine flying north between July and the end of the year.

Post-breeding flocks began to build in August, with 122 at Edderthorpe Flash, 214 at Fairburn Ings, 64 on Hornsea Mere, 116 at Old Moor and 50 at Tophill Low. Higher September counts included 79 at Beal Carrs, 23 at Harewood Park and 64 at Skelton Lake. In October there were 20 at Beal Carrs, 25 at Paull Holme Strays, 20 at Sprotbrough Flash and 16 at Welton Waters. Broomhill Flash attracted 38 and Wombwell Ings held 17 during November, while Bransholme SW hosted 26 during the year's final month.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* **AC2E*** 16,8,12,42,32
Rare migrant; escapes from captivity and feral birds confuse status.

This species breeds in southern Europe and from Germany east to the Black and Caspian seas. Many are kept in wildfowl collections, with a feral population in the Thames Valley of over 300 birds and these probably account for most, if not all the reports.

Two long-staying individuals were still present at the beginning of the year: the drake on Welton Waters remained until 17th February and another at Anglers CP stayed until 19th February.

Elsewhere, a drake dropped in at Yeadon Tarn and a party of seven, including five drakes, appeared on Southfield Res on 8th January. On 18th January a lone individual was on the Humber between Brough Haven and North Ferriby, with a female at East Park, Hull the same day, with the latter still present on 28th. Two were at Graves Park, Sheffield on 11th March and a male appeared on the river Hull at Dunswell on 25th April. The sole May record related to a drake at Potteric Carr on 25th/26th. During the summer, a single frequented Fairburn Ings on 29th June, when there was also a juvenile at Stapleton Pond and a single at Great Heck.

During the second half of the year, a juvenile lingered at Beal Carrs from 3rd-5th August and up to five remained in residence at Fairburn Ings during the month. An eclipse drake appeared on Winterset Res on 12th and 17th September, a single stayed at Flasks Lake from 20th September-4th October and a drake was at Pugney's CP on 22nd September. In October a drake was at Old Moor on 6th and two juveniles were on Castle Howard Lake on 23rd. Tophill Low then hosted a female on 1st November, followed by a male at Pugney's CP on 22nd. The year's final record related to a drake that stayed in the Watton NR/Tophill Low area from 1st-20th December.



Ferruginous Duck ●
Ray Scally

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* **A**
Amber list: scarce breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/211
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 3500: GB threshold 595

Breeds across northern Eurasia, including eastern Britain, but the declining wintering population was nationally at second lowest for 40 years, and this pattern was replicated in the county.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blacktoft Sands	4	17	17	11	4	1	–	–	1	–	–	–
Bolton-on-Swale	114	32	17	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Castle Howard	46	27	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	22	5
Edderthorpe Flash	32	32	–	–	–	12	3	–	–	7	8	–
Fairburn Ings	116	133	63	96	82	130	53	55	–	–	–	246
Flasks Lake	67	56	10	–	–	–	3	22	22	79	85	89
Hay-a-Park GP	40	23	4	1	3	–	6	6	3	9	2	5
Hornsea Mere	367	377	379	240	115	–	96	110	270	315	290	–
Lower Derwent NNR	122											–
Malham Tarn	50	60	45	1	1	1	4	12	6	10	10	4
North Cave	46	25	11	10	–	–	–	–	–	9	8	–
North Humber	21	35	21	11	13	1	0	1	2	8	16	19
Nosterfield NR	2	7	18	2	2	5	3	5	28	–	4	64
Old Moor	73	44	32	20	1	20	90	20	20	68	27	31
Potteric Carr	125	58	30	14	18	8	13	4	8	3	–	–
Pugney's CP	44	48	–	–	–	–	17	–	–	110	280	500
South Tees	7	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	4	7
Swillington Ings	133	100	4	4	6	16	–	–	14	–	–	139
Tophill Low NR	92	144	56	32	33	73	79	–	–	–	–	144
Welton Waters	140	129	15	7	9	–	–	1	–	100	10	37
Winterset Res	154	86	25	1	1	2	11	15	162	254	57	624

In addition to the key sites listed in the table early maxima in January included: 31 at Bransholme SW, 22 at Cleasby Pond, 20 at Doncaster Lakeside, 44 at Durkar Sand Quarry, 33 at Farnley Res, 23 on Skelton Lake, 36 at Thrybergh CP and 154 at Rother Valley CP. February produced 21 at Aughton Ings, 77 at Catwick GP and 117 on Lakeside, Doncaster, while 32 were present at Castleford during March.

There was little evidence of coastal movement during the first half of the year: 12 were off Scalby Mills and one headed north past Spurn on 3rd January. Subsequently singles were logged passing Spurn on 9th January, 27th April and 26th May.

A brood of five at Brigham Quarry, represented the first breeding for the site; six broods containing a total of 24 young were produced at Fairburn Ings and three pairs bred at North Cave producing ten young. It was an excellent year at both Potteric Carr (at least seven pairs) and the Swillington Ings/Skelton Lake area (nine pairs), with totals of 32 and 40 young respectively; there were also at least five broods at Tophill Low. A female accompanied a brood of six at Saltmarshe Delph on 7th June, the first breeding record there for 13 years.

Post-breeding the first sign of movement along the coastal fringe came with a single that flew south past Spurn on 15th July, with singles then flying past Long Nab on 7th and 15th August. A single headed past Flamborough on 1st October followed by a further six there on 10th October. There was a noticeable increase from 14th October, when 33 were recorded passing Flamborough. The passage peaked at the end of October: 12 flew past Spurn on 30th, followed by 13 north at Long Nab, two off Flamborough, five off Filey and 62 south at Spurn on 31st. Lastly, 24 flew past Spurn on 2nd December.

Higher counts in the second half of the year included: 80 at Anglers CP and 118 at Rother Valley CP in October; 20 at Bolton-on-Swale GP, 22 at Catcliffe Flash, 24 at Thornton Moor Res, 29 at Wykeham Lakes and 185 at Rother Valley CP in November; finally, 30 at Doncaster Lakeside, 28 at Otley Wetlands, 24 on Skelton Lake and 310 at Rother Valley CP in December.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca* **A** 0,0,1,0,1
Rare visitor

This is a migratory species breeding from Poland eastwards to the Caspian Sea, with separate populations in Spain, around the Black Sea and India. A winter bias to most British records indicates post-breeding dispersal and fits a pattern of wintering in Europe.

A first-winter drake at Pugney’s CP from 22nd November until the morning of 28th December delighted a procession of visiting birders; freezing conditions forced it to relocate to Anglers CP on 28th, but it then returned to Pugney’s CP on 30th December and stayed into the New Year. A juvenile female that graced Hornsea Mere in August 2007 often proved very elusive, so this record was the first ‘easily accessible’ individual since a drake at Swillington Ings in January/February 1992.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* **A** 4,2,1,0,1
Rare visitor

It is a rare, but regular, visitor to the county from North American breeding grounds and winters south to Central America.

A first-winter drake remained in residence at Pugney’s CP from 24th December; it appeared during a particularly cold snap and competed for attention with the aforementioned Ferruginous Duck (JAB: AHu *et al.*). Scarcer over the last couple of years, this represented the first record since a drake at Rother Valley CP in spring 2007.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* **A**
Amber list: uncommon breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 9/211
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 12000: GB threshold 901

The breeding and wintering populations appear to be increasing in line with national trends.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	34	64	59	47	5	–	9	3	–	–	2	31
Castle Howard	107	118	250	44	54	49	54	78	71	78	85	105
Fairburn Ings	105	129	186	293	153	162	196	153	–	–	30	40
Farnham GP	93	125	45	70	–	9	–	–	64	120	50	40
Gouthwaite Res	15	9	22	23	29	40	55	54	46	32	23	34
Hay-a-Park GP	115	39	74	58	–	–	–	–	16	26	38	80
Hornsea Mere	540	415	410	275	190	–	85	195	280	380	360	–
Lingham Lake	115	39	74	58	–	–	–	–	16	26	38	80
Malham Tarn	40	60	70	70	22	27	80	50	35	30	20	15
Lower Derwent NNR	140										36	
North Humber	10	29	14	7	20	22	1	30	0	1	55	38
North Cave	63	50	79	58	–	–	35	–	–	64	26	25
Nosterfield NR	15	20	30	26	37	25	27	46	110	53	19	33
Old Moor	154	226	178	362	195	173	187	170	136	90	110	136
Potteric Carr	79	93	99	56	103	132	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pugney’s CP	19	33	33	54	17	21	–	46	–	70	170	140
Rodley NR	17	34	9	12	3	13	16	29	4	6	3	20
Scaling Dam	9	8	18	24	18	48	60	18	25	13	7	31
Swillington Ings	1380	1200	7	236	323	234	–	–	–	–	–	1030
Tophill Low	670	200	314	271	223	341	–	340	230	–	–	151
Winterset Res	85	127	181	231	86	51	102	297	434	599	381	324

Maximum counts early on were: 135 at Allerton Bywater, 61 at Elland GP, 183 at Lowther Lake, 93 at Pulfin Bog and 75 at Thrybergh CP in January; 55 at Edderthorpe Flash, 142 at Lakeside and 58 at Seamer Road Mere in February and 103 at Bolton-on-Swale GP, 78 at Catwick GP and 40 at Scampston Lake in March.

Breeding was reported from a multitude of sites including: Denton, Denton Moor, East Lea (Filey), Edderthorpe Flash (14 broods – 109 young), Fairburn Ings (six pairs – 20 young), Harwood Dale Lake, Kex Gill Quarry, North Cave (six pairs), Northstead (two broods), Old Moor (seven pairs – 36 young), Peasholm Park (three broods), Rodley NR (four pairs – 30 young), Redcar Tarn, Seamer Road Mere (two broods), Seamer Tip Pools, Scalby Village Pond, Swillington Ings (65 pairs – 420 young), Tophill Low (20 young), Winterset Res (ten broods – 53 young) and Wykeham Lakes (four broods). Lone pairs also bred at Allerthorpe GP (six young), Beal Carrs (five young), Brigham Quarry, Castle Howard, Cattleholme, Ellernburn Fish Farm, Filey Dams (eight young), Gorple Res (three young), Otley Wetlands (four young), Pulfin Bog (nine young), Tudworth Flash (five young) and Wilthorpe Marsh.

Maximum counts during the second half of the year included: 130 at Doncaster Lakeside and 200 at Rother Valley CP in October; 71 at Pulfin Bog and 165 at Welton Waters in November and finally, 150 at Bank Island, 52 at Elland GP and 71 at Pulfin Bog in December.

SCAUP *Aythya marila* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland

The birds wintering in Britain of this circumpolar species mostly come from Iceland and Scandinavia east to Siberia, usually favouring marine habitats, but are also occasional inland.

A female remained in residence at Wilthorpe Flash from 1st–6th January and a drake and up to three females were noted sporadically on Swillington Ings from the start of the year until 22nd March. Between Brough Haven and North Ferriby, the river Humber hosted up to seven in January, two in February and a single in March. Additional January records related to: a female at Welton Waters on 1st, five on Hornsea Mere on 4th, a drake at Pulfin & High Eske on 10th (first site record), a pair at Welton Waters on 17th, a single at Allerton Bywater on 18th, four at Welton Waters on 21st and a female at Aldbrough from 24th–28th. The last week of January witnessed a pair on Edderthorpe Flash on 26th/29th January and finally one that remained in the Tophill Low area from 31st January–6th February. A drake remained in residence at Wheldrake Ings from 15th February–20th March and was joined by a female from 19th March. A female was on Hellifield Flash on 19th/22nd February, with a first-winter female there on 6th March and a drake on 11th and 15th March. Elsewhere, two visited Welton Waters on 22nd February and lone individuals were on Lowther Lake on 22nd February and Scorton Quarry on 14th March. In April there was a drake at Hornsea Mere from 11th, with two here on 15th and one remained until 25th, while Blacktoft hosted a single on 15th.

The only evidence of coastal passage at the start of the year came from Spurn: six headed south on 11th January, with another south on 15th January. A single then flew south at Spurn on 7th March, with a pair similarly on 28th April. A single tracked past Flamborough on 23rd May, with two south past Spurn the following day. The only summer record related to a single passing Flamborough on 6th June.

During the summer a drake appeared at Tophill Low from 18th June, where it was joined by two females on 20th, with a pair in residence from 21st June to 30th July. Elsewhere, a drake stayed at Winterset Res from 12th–30th July.

Autumn records started with a female at Lingham Lake on 1st September and two females on Welton Waters on 4th; in the latter half of the month, a drake on Hornsea Mere from 26th was joined by another on 28th, Scaling Dam hosted another drake and Tophill Low a further three on 29th and two arrived at Rother Valley CP the next day. In October there was a single at Orgreave Lagoons and three at Rother Valley CP on 2nd and lone individuals at Eccup Res, Farnham GP and Gouthwaite Res on 4th, Farnham GP again on 15th, Rother Valley CP on 18th and Scaling Dam on 27th.

Possibly the same drake remained on Scaling Dam on 5th November, two were on Hornsea Mere on 6th/7th, a drake and two females were at Anglers CP from 12th (joined by another two females from 21st), three were on Southfield Res on 13th/14th followed by a single at Old Moor on 24th November. All five remained at Anglers CP until 3rd December, when one female departed, with just two remaining at the year-end. Elsewhere, a single resided on Welton Waters from 26th November–5th December, a drake was at Hepworth from 28th November–5th December and six frequented Fairburn Ings on 30th November; a similar group was later seen at Gouthwaite Res on 2nd December. A female was at Skip Bridge, Green Hammerton from 5th–8th December and finally, a drake was on Elland GP on 26th/27th December.

Along the coast a single headed south past Spurn on 5th August. Autumn passage then increased from September, with seven past Flamborough on 12th. Between 17th September and the end of the year 43 headed south and four flew north past Spurn, including nine on 30th October and 13 on 2nd December. Seawatching at Flamborough was rewarded with a single south on 20th September, six heading past on 30th September and lone individuals on 14th and 27th October. Lastly, a single flew north past Jackson’s Bay, Scarborough on 4th December.

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis* **A** 2,2,0,1,1
Vagrant: ten previous records

A Nearctic duck that winters down to northern South America; first recorded in the UK in 1987, but now heading for rare migrant status.

A drake was present at the west end of Hornsea Mere from 13th–22nd April (BR *et al.*). Representing the fourth site record, clearly Hornsea Mere is now established as the best location within the county, with the last site record also relating to a drake in July 2006.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima* **A**
Amber list: uncommon coastal migrant and visitor; rare inland
This marine species breeds at Coquet Island, Northumberland northwards, but some non–breeding birds summer on the coast, and others winter.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Filey		7	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	30	43
Flamborough		8	18	21	12	5	–	4	6	4	37	4	138
Scarborough		3	3	2	1	11	–	–	4	2	23	17	36
Spurn		–	–	15	22	–	11	–	–	–	32	38	181
South Tees		14	24	–	18	–	2	5	6	7	–	11	7

During the first two months of the year small numbers were present along the coast, with three between Scarborough’s South Bay and Scalby Mills, up to eight off Flamborough in January, increasing to 18 there in February and 21 in March. There was also a maximum of 11 off Filey Brigg on 8th February and regular sightings at Spurn, including 15 on 21st March and 22 on 11th April.

Numbers generally remained low over the summer, with the exception of 15 off Filey Brigg, 11 flying south past Jackson’s Bay (Scarborough) on 24th May and 11 passing Spurn on 1st and 14th June.

Autumn passage started in early August with five north past Atwick on 1st, one south past Marine Drive on 5th and four north past Long Nab on 6th. Small numbers continued to be recorded throughout September, but counts only increased appreciably from October: 23 tracked past Long Nab on 17th, 15 flew south past Marine Drive on 23rd and 32 were off Spurn on 31st.

In November there were up to 30 off Filey Brigg, 38 logged off Spurn on 10th and 17 flew south past Long Nab on 30th. Numbers peaked in December including: 44 at Spurn on 1st, 181 at Spurn the next day, 76 passing Spurn on 3rd, 138 heading past Flamborough and 52 at Spurn on 13th, 56 off Spurn on 29th and finally, 36 north past Long Nab on 30th December. As well as triggering movement, the December cold snap also increased wintering numbers; 43 took up residence around Filey Brigg, compared with ten over a similar period 12 months previously.

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis* **A** 0,0,0,1,1
Vagrant; three previous records

A circumpolar breeder on Arctic coasts, wintering south of breeding range; the nearest wintering grounds are in Iceland and northern Scandinavia.

A first–winter male was present on the north side of Flamborough between North Landing and Selwicks Bay from 25th–27th February (JPD: SJa *et al.*); incredibly this fourth county record comes less than a year since an adult drake spent several days off North Landing in late April.

LONG–TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* **A**
Scarce coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland

The nearest breeding locations of this circumpolar species are in Iceland and northern Norway; and birds thought to be of Scandinavian and Russian origin winter regularly in the southern North Sea in small numbers.

The first coastal record related to a single off North Landing, Flamborough on 15th March, followed by a drake on the sea off Beacon Ponds on 21st March and one that flew north past on Filey on 13th April.

There were no other sightings until October, when two were off Flamborough on 14th and 15th and one flew north past Spurn and a single was alongside Filey Brigg on 16th. Singles then flew north past Long Nab on 17th and 21st October and south past Spurn on 31st. Subsequently, singles were off Marske on 7th and at South Gare on 29th November. In December singles flew south past Spurn on 4th and again on 7th, a lone bird was present in Filey Bay from 6th–27th, two were at Flamborough on 19th and finally, one flew north past Spurn on 31st.

Inland an immature remained at Gouthwaite Res from the New Year until 3rd January; presumed to be the same, it then stayed at Lingham Lake from 27th January to 26th April. Elsewhere, a first–winter drake visited Brownhill Res on 31st March, with a single at Orgreave Lagoons from 28th–30th April. The only inland report for the second half related to a female at Wykeham Lakes from 5th November to the year–end.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: a fairly common coastal visitor, scarcer inland

Mostly winters offshore, with birds also seen moving to and from the North Norfolk coast, where nearly 5000 regularly winter.

The highest coastal tallies early on included 146 tracking past Spurn on 14th January on which date 230 were off Flamborough and 40 in Filey Bay. There were few notable counts thereafter, with a best of 77 off Flamborough on 7th February.

Summer dispersal began in June, with 230 north past Filey on 21st and 149 north at Flamborough and 120 north past Scarborough the next day. In July 475 flew north off Scarborough on 17th, then 112 flew past Flamborough and 100 tracked past Filey on 18th and 200 headed north off Scarborough on 29th July. August maxima included: 137 passing Flamborough on 2nd, 641 tracking past Spurn on 5th, 224 passing Scarborough on 6th, 440 flying past Spurn on 10th and 161 flew north at Filey on 14th. After 260 flew north past Scarborough on 14th September, the month closed with a raft of 150 on the sea off Barmston, 331 passing Flamborough and 503 flew past Spurn all on 30th. Notable counts in the final quarter were: 281 heading past Spurn on 14th October; 350 flying past Filey on 17th November; 402 heading past Spurn on 29th November; 350 went past Filey on 1st December, with 380 passing Spurn the next day; and finally 420 flew past Flamborough on 4th December.

Inland, the year started with a drake remaining on Skelton Lake on 1st/2nd January, with perhaps the same there again on 25th and 28th January. Elsewhere a lone male was at Anglers CP on 2nd February. There were no reports during March, but April saw an increase in records starting with a single at Tophill Low on 5th, two at Fairburn Ings from 11th–13th, a drake and two females at Thrybergh CP on 15th, when there were also two females at Catcliffe Flash. There were a drake and two females on Hornsea Mere on 16th April and lone drakes visited Scout Dike Res the following day, Broomhill Flash on 24th and Eccup Res on 27th; two females at Winterset Res from 26th–30th May represented the sole inland record for the month. During the summer a single visited Upper Windleden Res on 18th June, with three on Thornton Moor Res and a party of 14 heading north–west up the Humber past Sunk Island on 22nd and a lone individual at Hay–a–Park GP on 25th. Finally, 12 dropped in at Ingbirchworth Res on 27th June. Two drakes graced Winterset Res on 17th July and another drake appeared there on 6th August, with two present the next day. In addition, a lone individual dropped in at Blackstone Edge on 6th August.

The number of inland reports increased again during September, with a single at Eccup Res on 4th, two at Gouthwaite Res on 7th, ten on Thornton Moor Res on 12th, three at Warley Moor Res on 14th and a single at Ingbirchworth Res on 27th. The final records for the year included one at Tophill Low on 11th October, two at Silverwood Lagoons on 15th October and singles on the river Wharfe near Ilkley on 17th and Fairburn Ings on 19th. In November, Scammonden Dam hosted one on 9th, and finally a pair appeared at Broomhead Res on 8th December and two visited Gouthwaite Res on 12th.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* **A**
Amber list: uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland

This Holarctic species breeds in northern Scandinavia and is a scarce winter visitor to the east coast. In common with other coastal passage birds, there may be some duplication in records.

In January nine flew past Flamborough on 1st, three went south past Spurn the next day, one passed Flamborough on 4th, a female headed north past Cromer Point on 16th and three flew past Flamborough on 24th. There were no further sightings until March, when two flew past Flamborough on 14th, with one subsequently off South Gare on 21st. One was on the Humber at Spurn on 26th April and a drake flew south past Spurn on 26th May. On 13th June a single headed past Flamborough and another appeared on the Humber at Spurn.

The first of the autumn were singles tracking past Flamborough on 11th and 30th September. In October a drake headed north past Long Nab on 1st, a single flew past Spurn on 6th and a pair was resident in Filey Bay from 10th–18th. Two flew north past Marine Drive on 12th October, five headed past Spurn on 15th, a single flew past Long Nab on 17th and a drake accompanied Common Scoter off Filey on 27th October. In November three were off Marske on 7th, five were on the sea off Bridlington and six flew past Spurn on 24th and four headed past Long Nab on 28th. December opened with a single past Flamborough and then Long Nab on 1st, another flew past Flamborough on 13th, two were in Filey Bay on 27th and the year’s last headed past Filey on 30th. In total Flamborough logged 20 bird/days in October and 11 bird/days in November and Spurn recorded 44 bird/days from 21st September to the year–end.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* **A**
Amber list: fairly common migrant and winter visitor, a few over–summer
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 11500: GB threshold 249

The Humber Estuary is now the only nationally important wintering site within the region for a species that breeds from Scotland east to Siberia. Nationally, numbers have fallen since the mid–nineties, and Hornsea Mere’s peak was the lowest for some time and well below the five–year mean of 282 and the GB threshold figure.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Castle Howard	16	20	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	8
Fairburn Ings	71	65	58	20	3	1	–	1	–	–	–	25
Farnham GP	14	5	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	7	23
Gouthwaite Res	37	30	22	1	–	–	–	1	1	10	12	25
Hay-a-Park GP	29	49	27	7	3	–	–	–	–	1	10	5
Hornsea Mere	56	103	96	14	2	–	2	2	4	64	37	136
Malham Tarn	21	16	15	8	–	–	–	–	–	1	4	4
North Humber	23	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6
Nosterfield NR	16	21	20	11	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	8
Old Moor	11	16	14	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	6	4
Pugney's CP	8	19	18	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Scaling Dam	11	7	10	10	–	–	–	–	–	10	7	5
South Tees	19	41	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	15	20
Swillington Ings	44	38	31	2	–	–	–	–	–	23	35	43
Tophill Low	100	98	67	37	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Winterset Res	60	102	97	68	1	–	–	–	–	26	31	67

In addition to the totals shown in the table, there were double-figure counts of 31 at Knotford Nook, 28 at Otley Wetlands and ten on Studley Lake in February and 13 at Staveley NR in March; Rother Valley CP also held 20 in January, 23 in February, 31 in March and then 15 were present there until 15th April.

Unusually a small number lingered during the summer, with lone females at both Staveley NR and Pulfin Bog, an immature male at Skelton Lake, a pair at Marley on 24th June, eight on Chelker Res in July and one at Thrybergh CP on 23rd July. In August a single appeared at Fairburn Ings, with another in residence at Gouthwaite Res from 22nd August into September.

Autumn passage started with a single at Flamborough on 17th September and a lone individual heading south past Spurn on 30th. After sporadic singles during the first half of October, there were 15 in Filey Bay on 15th October and another pulse at the month end produced 25 heading south past Spurn on 30th and the following day there were: 16 off Flamborough, 19 tracking past Filey, 11 flying past Long Nab and 76 passing Spurn. Low single figures were then the norm, apart from 12 on the sea off Scalby Ness and 12 heading south off Spurn on 2nd December.

Inland maxima over the last two months included: 12 on the river at Ben Rhydding, ten at Knotford Nook and 14 at Otley in November and 37 at Rother Valley CP, 14 at Staveley NR and 12 at Skelton Lake during December.

SMEW *Mergellus albellus* A
Amber list: scarce winter visitor

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 400: GB threshold 4

Breeds in north Europe and winters further south. Numbers wintering in the UK are declining and counts in 2006/07 were 50% lower than the previous winter.

At the start of the year a redhead was at Watton NR on 1st January, with another nearby at Tophill Low; both then alternated between these sites, with three present at Tophill Low on 11th January, 15th February and 15th March, until the last record on 29th March. Elsewhere in the Hull Valley, there were singles at Welbeck on 20th January and a drake at Welton Waters from 27th January to 22nd March.

Further inland, January records included a drake at Worsbrough Res on 2nd, with another drake initially at Silverwood Pit Top and then Rother Valley CP also on 2nd; it was still present at the latter site the next day. A drake took up residence at the Pugney's CP/Calder Washlands complex from 20th January and remained until 4th April; the same individual was also responsible for occasional records on the river Calder at Horbury. There was also a drake at Fairburn Ings from 29th January–2nd February and presumably the same from 22nd–25th February. Other February records included singles at Winterset Res on 22nd and another at Hornsea Mere the following day.

There were no further records until a redhead appeared at Tophill Low on 3rd November; it was then joined by another on 7th and an adult male on 17th November. While all three seldom associated together, they remained around the Tophill Low/Watton complex until the year-end. Elsewhere a drake flew in off the sea and north at Spurn on 2nd December, a drake appeared on the river Hull at Wilfholme on 20th and the drake returned to Pugney's CP on 23rd December; finally, a redhead flew along the Humber past Sunk Island on 30th.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* A

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

Nationally has declined since the mid-1990s.

Monthly Maxima

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
South Tees	9	6	7	2	–	–	–	–	4	24	17	5
Flamborough	–	–	3	–	1	–	2	–	2	7	6	–
Spurn	1	1	2	6	1	–	–	–	–	46	–	–

Along the coast, the year began with a single off Spurn on 2nd January, two headed past Scalby Mills on 9th, a lone individual was in Scarborough's South Bay, followed by four south past Marine Drive on 12th. Elsewhere, three were between Saltburn and Skinningrove on 24th January and there were also occasional records of singles at Filey between January and May. In February two were in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 8th, a single was off Spurn on 12th, two were again in Scarborough's South Bay on 14th and a single was off Spurn on 28th. In March three flew past Flamborough on 21st, with a single the next day and two flew north past Spurn on 23rd. In April two were in the Saltburn/Skinningrove area on 10th and there was an increase in records off Spurn: up to three were logged on seven dates, with a maximum of six on 4th. Finally, singles were recorded off Flamborough and Spurn on 4th May and again at the former location on 16th.

There were no further records until July, when a drake flew north past Long Nab on 15th and two flew past Flamborough on 18th. Autumn passage started in earnest in September and peaked in October; autumn totals included 19 bird/days at Long Nab (nine dates), five bird/days in September and 32 bird/days in October at Flamborough, with smaller numbers also recorded passing Filey.

Peak counts included seven north past Filey on 10th October, four north past Scarborough on 12th October, seven past Flamborough on 31st; more unusually 46 flew south at Spurn on the latter date, easily beating the previous best day-count of 19.

Additional October records included a single passing Castle Hill, Scarborough on 21st and 12 that circled Peasholm on 25th before heading north. In November: six flew past Flamborough on 8th, with one passing the Headland the next day; a single was in North Bay, Scarborough from 9th–12th November; two were between Saltburn and Skinningrove on 12th; two were off Hunmanby Gap on 24th and finally, one stayed in Filey Bay on 30th November/1st December. The autumn total for Spurn comprised of 82 south and 12 north between 21st September and 13th December.

Away from the coast the resident female at Swillington Ings remained in the area until 17th March and also visited Skelton Lake and Lowther Lake. Subsequently, a female stayed in the Nosterfield NR area from 31st January to 7th March. Seamer Road Mere hosted three from 13th January–16th February, with a single still present on 21st/22nd February. Elsewhere a female was at Eccup Res on 10th March, a single visited Pugney's CP on 28th March, two were at Fairburn Ings on 10th/11th April, when a pair also dropped in at Eccup Res.

During the second half of the year a single appeared at Fairburn Ings on 25th July, Skelton Lake attracted a redhead on 4th October and a female was at Crookes Valley Park, Sheffield on 31st October. One lingered at Winterset Res from 1st November to 27th December and a single was on the Humber near Patrington on 22nd. Finally in December, a drake was at Swillington Ings on 3rd, North Duffield Carrs hosted a single the next day, a female roosted with Goosanders at Old Moor on 10th and a drake and two redheads were on Hornsea Mere on 29th.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* A

Uncommon to scarce breeder; uncommon migrant and winter visitor. BBS 6/211

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 2700: GB threshold 161

Breeds on fast-flowing rivers mostly in the west of the county, with numbers swollen in winter. Since colonizing the UK in 1871, males still fly to Tana Fjord, North Norway to moult during September, and this may account for some coastal sightings. Colonisation of England is continuing, and the regional population probably increasing, although winter numbers have decreased since mid 1990s.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	14	7	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Castle Howard	12	11	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12
Catcliffe Flash	4	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	7	-
Cold Edge Dam	-	1	5	1	1	1	3	5	9	2	1	-
Eccup Res	71	53	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	61	76
Elland GP	26	13	5	4	-	6	-	2	5	2	6	25
Fairburn Ings	27	54	20	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	10	8
Hay-a-Park	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Long Preston	2	6	2	2	2	-	4	-	4	-	3	2
North Cave	6	5	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1
Ogden	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	12	5	2	1	1
Old Moor	81	89	57	26	11	-	-	-	-	5	25	61
Rodley NR	26	31	2	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	30
Scaling Dam	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2
Skelton Castle	6	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Swillington Ings	43	85	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Winterset Res	76	51	34	2	6	-	-	7	-	9	45	28
Worsbrough Res	13	16	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12

Higher counts at the start of the year included 22 at Harthill Res from 15th–19th January, 26 at Bretton Lakes on 16th, 32 at East Park, Hull; the total of 76 at Winterset Res on 28th January was the highest count there since February 1997. In February there were 15 at both Bretton Lakes and Brotherton on 19th.

Small numbers were recorded on coastal passage, starting with three south past Filey on 11th January, two north past Scalby Beck on 24th and three north past Spurn on 29th January. Three flew past Flamborough and 11 headed north at Spurn on 28th February and in March three flew past Spurn on 1st, two headed north past Filey on 14th and singles passed Scalby Mills on 15th, 20th and 21st, Spurn on 28th and Long Nab on 29th. Spurn logged two heading north on 11th April, four flew east there the next day and nine were on the sea off Scalby Mills on 19th April. There were two coastal records in May: five males flew north over Scalby Lodge on 3rd and a single headed west at Spurn on 17th.

Reports of breeding came from the strongholds in the west, with family parties noted along stretches of the river Wharfe at Barden, Burley, Denton and Lower Grass Wood and there were two broods at Keswick Fitts, near Leeds. Reports of successful breeding also came from the river Aire with family parties noted at East Riddlesden, Marley and St Ives. A pair bred at Elland GP with a female and five small young present on 21st June; this constitutes the first breeding record in Calderdale. In the Harrogate area, a female accompanied 25 ducklings in the Nidd Gorge on 3rd May.



Goosander ●
Michael Henry

Along the coast Filey’s best count during the autumn related to seven north past the Brigg on 10th October which was followed by six south on 31st October. During November two were off Hunmanby Gap on 24th November and finally a single sheltered in Filey Bay on 30th November/1st December. Flamborough recorded singles on 30th September, 14th and 15th October and two on 12th October, while Spurn logged 25 south and seven north between 30th July and 19th December.

Higher counts during the second half of the year included up to 49 roosting at Thornton Moor Res in November. In December there were 24 at Yeadon Tarn on 2nd, 42 on Pontefract Park Lake on 4th, 13 at Skip Bridge, near York the next day, 26 at Bretton Lakes on 12th, 12 at Carlton Marsh on 15th, and 12 at both Towthorpe Bridge on 28th and Red House Res the following day.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis* C

Scarce feral breeder since 1980; uncommon visitor from 1968

Due to control measures, a 45% national fall reduced numbers over the 2006/07 winter to those of the late 1980s, and this decrease was also evident in the county.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Fairburn Ings	2	2	1	5	8	10	5	1	-	-	-	-
Old Moor	7	6	16	27	9	11	13	7	9	7	4	3
Potteric Carr	1	-	3	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swillington Ings	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	-
Tophill Low	36	-	-	5	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winterset Res	42	23	4	-	-	2	-	2	11	29	7	11

The Defra cull continued during the year with a number of sites again reporting shooting parties. The year’s largest count, 62 at Swillington Ings came in January; 36 were present at Tophill Low during the same month, but there was a rapid decline after a shooting party arrived at the end of the month.

In January a single frequented Potteric Carr on 1st, four were at Hornsea Mere on 17th and the following day there were two at Skelton Lake, four at Anglers CP and singles at Pugney’s CP and Potteric Carr, followed by another at Edderthorpe Flash on 19th. In February six were at both Pugney’s CP and Anglers CP on 22nd, with six more at Hornsea Mere the following day. In March males dropped in at Nosterfield NR on 1st and Eccup Res on 11th, four were at Skelton Lake and three at Potteric Carr on 15th. Filey Dams sole record related to a single on 3rd April. Elsewhere, lone males visited North Cave and Tophill Low on 5th, two females stayed at Rodley NR from 13th April–2nd May (with one remaining until 16th May), two were at both Allerton Bywater and Pugney’s CP on 19th April and up to five were at Potteric Carr. A lone individual at Otley Wetlands on 22nd April represented the only record there during the year, a single visited Castle Howard on 26th and finally, a drake graced Flasks Lake on 28th.

There were records during May at: Blacktoft Sands (up to two individuals), Castle Howard, Pugney’s CP, Potteric Carr, North Cave, Rodley NR and Tophill Low (a maximum of seven). A female visited Nosterfield NR in June and a male was at Gouthwaite Res from 15th–27th June.

Breeding was recorded at Tophill Low (three broods) and Fairburn Ings (one brood), but all were culled. Elsewhere, three pairs bred at Swillington Ings and a single pair at Leventhorpe Hall.

In the second half of the year, there were two at Castle Howard on 9th July and two at Beal Carrs on 31st, whilst August produced 13 at Harewood Park and ten at Tophill Low. Post–breeding flocks started to assemble again in September, with 33 at Skelton Lake on 20th and up to 40 at Swillington Ings. Elsewhere there were singles at North Cave on 1st, 10th/11th and Welton Waters on 22nd. The number present at Swillington Ings declined after an October cull, with only a few remaining in November/December. Two males visited Tophill Low on 28th October, a female stayed at Welton Waters from 7th–9th November and singles were on Skelton Lake on 22nd November, Edderthorpe Flash on 20th December and finally, Tophill Low hosted three females on 27th December.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus scotica* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: fairly common resident breeder of upland moors. BBS 36/211
Yorkshire is an English stronghold of this subspecies of the European Willow Ptarmigan. It breeds exclusively on heather moorland, where the population is managed. A long-term population decline due to loss of heather moorland, viral disease and predation from corvids and foxes has prompted the move of this species to the Amber list.

The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) reported a mixed year in northern England, with numbers much higher on moors that used medicated grit to reduce parasites. Remaining widespread in areas of suitable habitat, it is not possible to determine any population totals or trends from the records received. Notable counts included 179 on Barden Moor prior to the breeding season, over 200 at Harden in early January and 139 in Colsterdale in February. A single covey of 150 at Ewden Beck at the end of August had apparently survived the ‘glorious’ 12th, as had 100 on Broomhead Moor in early September.

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: rare to scarce resident breeder. BBS 1//211
This species continues to increase in the Yorkshire Dales and has benefited greatly from targeted habitat improvements.

Monitoring work co-ordinated by the GWCT showed a 27% decline in numbers in northern England in 2009. This was due to two successive poor breeding years in 2007 and 2008, followed by high winter mortality during the 2008/09 winter, particularly in areas where there was little or no scrub woodland for winter-feeding. Despite these problems, there is a positive long-term population trend in the county, with further range expansion recorded in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The fine weather in June resulted in a good breeding season across much of northern England, with higher than average brood counts recorded in late summer.

A summary of lekking males is as follows:

Area	2008	2009
Arkengarthdale	37	25
Ribblesdale	0	2
Swaledale	30	33
Wensleydale	58	32
Wharfedale	0	0
East Pennine fringe	26	17
County total	151	109
Full lek survey	yes	yes

In South Yorkshire, birds originating from the Peak District reintroduction scheme included three in the Ewden area and up to 18 males nearby, with 14 lekking males present in early April. Additional males were noted in the Little Don Valley on 8th June and Midhope on 31st December. A lone male in the Huddersfield area in May was presumed to have originated from this scheme.



Black Grouse ●
Ray Scally

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* **C**
Common resident. BBS 58/211: +49% (+24) 1995–2009, –17% (–8) 2008–09
Based on BBS data, numbers have increased in most areas of the county, although to what extent the population is dependent on releases for shooting is not clear, the numbers of which have more than doubled since 1990. However, a decrease was apparent this year.
Again there were widespread records, with low single figure counts of breeding pairs from a number of areas. With the large number released for shooting, it is difficult to determine local trends.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* **AC**
Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common resident. BBS 22/211
The national picture is one of rapid decline, probably due to agricultural intensification, but also overshooting in areas where Red-legged Partridges were released. Noted in significantly fewer BBS squares this year in the county, although this is insufficient evidence to determine population changes, particularly from the arable strongholds in East and North Yorkshire, where releases can temporarily boost the population.

This species seems to be faring reasonably well in the east of the county, but it continues to decline in the west. Despite being under-recorded, there were widespread reports across the Scarborough area, with breeding records from Cowath Beck, Seamer Tip Pools, Long Nab and Scalby Lodge; and notable counts of 30 at Long Nab on 4th and 20 at Scalby on 9th October. It was another good year around Filey, with a peak count of 22 at Newbiggin on 5th December. However, it was a relatively poor year elsewhere along the coast, with only three records from Spurn.

Further west, there were no reported breeding records around Harrogate and few notable counts, apart from 22 at Staveley NR on 13th October and 75 on 1st September and 20 on 5th October in the Nosterfield area, presumably relating to released birds. In the Bradford area there was a continued decline, with only two breeding reports and the majority of records from around Baildon Moor, where several small coveys of up to 40 were noted. The only other double-figure count related to 11 near Lippersley Pike and it was another poor year in adjacent areas of Wharfedale, with only three double-figure counts. Declines were also reported around Halifax, with 20 at Noah Dale on 15th July, 11 at both Walshaw Dene on 9th August and Wainstalls on 15th October and ten present at Pule Hill on 8th November. The highest count in the Huddersfield area related to 35 at Dewsbury SF on 23rd December; elsewhere there were 22 at Whitley Common in August and coveys of ten at Shelley, Shepley, Swinney Knoll, Thurgory Lane and also 15 at Hepworth in the latter half.

It was a similar picture around Leeds with further declines; there was only one report of confirmed breeding and eight at Garforth on 2nd August represented the year’s highest count. Up to 12 were present at Fairburn Ings between April and September; at least one pair bred and there were 16 present on several dates in November/December.

There was better news from South Yorkshire with reports that this species was much more widespread around Winterset, with 17 territorial pairs present during the breeding season. Other counts around the Barnsley area included 15 between Carlton and Royston on 6th and 7th January, 20 in the Worsbrough Valley also in January and ten at Wilthorpe Marsh throughout the year. Two pairs were present at Wilthorpe and Broomhill during the breeding season, with two further territories at both Wilthorpe Marsh and Broomhill Flash and confirmed breeding at Goldthorpe, Edderthorpe Flash and Wombwell Ings. The record count for the Barnsley area was broken on 10th October with 109 in the Old Moor area, including 42 at Broomhill Flash, 15 on Wombwell Ings and 52 on Bolton Ings. Elsewhere there were notable counts of 18 between Carlton and Royston on 18th October, ten at Winterset throughout December and also 15 at Barrow and 20 on Woolley Pit Stack. Peak counts around Sheffield included 13 at Thrybergh CP on 8th February and 20 at Orgreave on 20th September.

Forty were present at Southfield and Went Ings during January; at least one pair bred, but releases for shooting then increased the numbers in September and October. These included apparent hybrids which may pose a threat to the purity of any wild birds in the area. Other notable local counts included 12 at Buckton, ten at Hatfield and 18 Helperthorpe in August; 30 at both Brotherton Marsh and Tickhill in October and 30 at Hatfield Moors in late November.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* **A**
Amber list: scarce summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. BBS 1/211
Although appearing a weak flyer, each year it migrates from North African wintering grounds; numbers vary from year to year.
Calling males were widely distributed, including up to two singing at Helperthorpe between May and August. Elsewhere, there were calling birds at North Duffield Carrs on 11th May, Hatfield Moors on 16th May, Darfield on 20th, Kilton Thorpe from 28th–31st, Goole on 29th, Spurn (Point Dunes) on 30th and Flamborough (Northcliff Marsh) on 31st May.

There were also singles at Hatfield Moors intermittently between 7th and 29th May and up to three calling at Stanghow Moor in late May and early June. Other singles were heard during June at: Bentley on 1st, Pulfin Bog, Nosterfield NR on 13th/14th, Carlton Marsh on 13th, Buckton on 17th, Ferry Moor/Cudworth Common and another at Edderthorpe Flash. Other records related to a single at Grimston on 23rd June, two at Long Marston on 26th (increasing to three there by the end of July), five near North Anston and two at Woodsetts on 27th; with a single still present at the latter site the next day. On 29th June singles were calling at Annat Royd, Great Ayton and Ingbirchworth, with the latter present until 4th July.

Bempton hosted a single on 1st July, followed by at least three near Skelton Lake on 5th, with subsequent singles at Crook Ness near Scarborough on 8th/9th July, Long Nab on 9th, Watton NR on 12th and Thornton on 15th. In the latter half of July, one sang at Goole Fields from 15th–22nd and three were singing at Long Marston on 23rd, with at least one present until 30th July.

In August one was flushed on Thorne Moors on 15th, a calling male was heard at Malton on 23rd and a single was flushed from the edge of Hundale, Long Nab on 25th.

However, given the enormous extent of suitable habitat, the Lower Derwent Valley again attracted the largest numbers. After the first on 11th May, there were subsequent influxes on 2nd June and again in late June/early July. Gauging the numbers present was nigh on impossible, although up to five were calling on North Duffield Carrs, four at Thornton Ellers, Thorganby Ings and Ellerton Ings and three at East Cottingwith and Wheldrake Ings. A farmer flagged up the presence of Quail in a field being cropped near Hagg Lane, East Cottingwith during mid–August; a staggered harvest subsequently allowed the trapping and ringing of six juveniles on 18th August.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* **C**

Common to abundant resident

BBS 172/211: +79% (+35) 1995–2009, –12% (+5) 2008–09

This is one of the most widespread species, with particularly large populations in North Yorkshire, where many are released for shooting. The trend from BBS data shows a rapid increase, doubling in numbers since 1994, and this species is just outside the top 15 most common birds in the county.

Once again, there were widespread records from across the county resulting from large numbers released for shooting. This makes any attempt at a population estimate futile.

RED–THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* **A**

Amber list: fairly common coastal migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 300: GB threshold 170

This circumpolar species breeds in decreasing numbers in Europe, in northern Scandinavia and north–west Scotland, and many winter in the southern North Sea.

The highest tally in the north related to 44 off Skinningrove on 8th December that included 35 heading west. Lower numbers were recorded along the Scarborough coastline, with 11 between Long Nab and South Bay on 4th January. The last of spring were two north on 11th May, with Scarborough’s next south on 10th July. There were regular reports from September onwards peaking in October with: 22 on 4th, 29 on 12th and 29 on 17th. Counts then declined towards the year–end, with 14 past Marine Drive on 26th December. Passage off Filey Brigg included 46 on 15th February, 38 on 14th September and 24 on 25th December; in addition, Filey Bay held numbers during both winter periods. Fifty in the Bay on 17th February represented an influx, 24 were still present on 4th March, but the exodus continued leaving nine on 13th March. In the latter half Filey Bay provided a refuge to 25 off Speeton Cliffs on 19th September, with 35 off Hunmanby Gap on 31st October and 42 present there on 5th December.

Numbers at Flamborough improved on 2008, with a January maximum of 75 on the last day of the month, while 150 on 14th February represented the year’s highest tally. Single figures were recorded off Flamborough on several days during the summer months, with an appreciable increase occurring during September, including 65 on 26th. However numbers increased further during the cold spell in December, peaking at 109 on 28th. The Holderness coastline attracted 100 off Barmston on 14th February, although only five were present there two days later. Later in the year 23 were logged on the sea between Atwick & Barmston on 11th December. Spurn recorded the largest movements including: 208 on 6th January; 232 on 13th January; 158 on 30th September; 193 on 1st October; and 145 on 28th December.

A legacy from 2008, the single at Wintersett just stayed long enough to register on local year lists and departed south at 1015hrs on 1st January. Another then took up temporary residence on Swinsty Res from 18th–23rd April (JF: AGG *et al.*).

BLACK–THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* **A**

Amber list and UK BAP species: scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

Small numbers breed in Scotland, but most of Yorkshire’s records are of birds from Scandinavia and northern Russia. Like the previous species, its UK population is increasing in contrast to a decline elsewhere in Europe, with a 34% increase in Scotland in the 12 years to 2006; this increase has largely been attributed to the placement of artificial breeding islands on Scottish lochs.

A single off South Gare on 29th March preceded one flying past Cowbar on 1st October. The coastline off Skinningrove proved productive in early December, with four on 4th and another on 8th. Further south, one frequented North Bay, Scarborough on 7th January with another in Burniston Bay on 4th February. Subsequent records from the Scarborough area all related to individuals flying past Long Nab: an adult on 1st October was followed by another on 12th, four on 16th, two more the following day and finally, a single on 9th November. Singles flew past Filey Brigg on 10th and 12th October, while one took up residence off Hunmanby Gap from 5th–8th December.

The seawatch team at Flamborough recorded 25 bird/days during the year, although a single on 1st March was the sole record during the first half. Autumn passage started with a single on 30th August, while 12 bird/days in September included three on 30th. October yielded another nine bird/days, with a best of four on 17th, and singles on 5th November and 28th December proved to be Flamborough’s last. Just to the south of the Headland, a single sheltered off Barmston on 16th February.

A good year at Spurn started with a single on the sea on 14th and 16th January. There were no further records until two singles headed north on 1st October. One south on 3rd October was followed by another north on 10th and a single went south on 22nd October. A single headed north on 22nd November, while a single tracked north at Spurn on 6th, 10th and 12th December.

A juvenile graced Blackmoorfoot Res from 25th–30th January and was again present from 1st–5th February (MLD: CH: GK: MSa *et al.*). Presumed to be the same individual then relocated to Lakeside, Doncaster on 7th February and was still present the following morning; however, on the latter date it took flight and flew over Short Lane Fields, within the Potteric Carr recording area, and represented a first for the reserve.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* **A**

Amber list: scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

A regular winter visitor from Iceland and Greenland, the nearest breeding grounds of this essentially Nearctic species.

A juvenile off Marske on 1st January was followed by another that lingered off South Gare from 17th January–8th February. South Gare then attracted a single on 19th October; one was off Marske on 7th November, followed by another north at South Gare on 29th November. Scarborough’s only record from the first half related to a single in South Bay on 20th March, with a summer–plumaged adult north past Marine Drive on 10th September. A single flew north past Marine Drive and then Long Nab on 17th October and one was in North Bay, Scarborough on 20th October. Three singles headed south at Long Nab on 28th November and finally, two headed south at Long Nab on 1st December.

Filey again proved to be a favoured site, even though a single on 22nd January was the only record from the first half of the year. However, after one south on 22nd September, singles were logged on a regular basis until numbers began to build in the Bay during November; six were feeding in Filey Bay on 24th November, with up to three still present at the end of the year.

Flamborough opened with six on New Year’s Day, but after four bird/days in February, there were no further records until a single on 29th August. Six bird/days in September preceded 11 bird/days in October, which included three on 17th, while November brought mere singles on two dates. However, numbers increased off Flamborough in December with 14 bird/days, including six on 19th. The year started slowly at Spurn with records confined to singles south on 20th February and 25th April and one north on 11th May. However, the latter few months were exceptional with 61 bird/days recorded, starting with a single south on 22nd September. Up to two then featured through to mid–November, before the day record was equaled with four on 21st November. However, this record was smashed the following day when nine were logged; numbers then clearly remained high, as eight were logged at Spurn on 1st December and four were recorded on New Year’s Eve.

Away from the coast a single remained in residence at Welton Waters from the start of the year through until 14th April. An extraordinary influx then took place in South and West Yorkshire from the end of November. It began with a juvenile at Blackmoorfoot Res from 23rd November, with another joining it from 1st December (MLD: CH: DMO *et al.*); both then remained until 29th December, although one visited nearby Deer Hill Res on 16th December (SRG). A juvenile arrived at Wintersett on 27th November and lingered until 21st December, only

departing when the waters started to freeze (CHa: PS *et al.*). An adult graced Rother Valley CP from 29th November through until 14th December (KRG *et al.*) and a juvenile also visited Ringstone Edge Res on 29th November (SG). A juvenile at nearby Scammonden Dam from 2nd December was presumably the Ringstone individual; however, it was then joined by another on Scammonden from 29th December, with both seeing in the New Year (JAB: DTa *et al.*).

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* **A**
Amber list: uncommon resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 3/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 4000: GB threshold 78

Breeds on small, shallow fresh waters, and is easily overlooked unless riverine surveys are conducted. The lack of appreciable waters in the east of the county ensured they remained scarcer there. Pairs bred successfully at Hemlington Lake and Skelton Castle, while in the Scarborough area it bred at Wykeham Lakes, where the largest count related to 15 on 5th September. Three pairs bred at Filey Dams, with additional pairs breeding at nearby East Lea and the Golf Course Pond south of the town. Breeding was also proved amongst other sites at: Kelk, Barmston, Tophill Low, Pulfin & High Eske, Brigham Quarry (four broods), Thwaite Hall Gardens, Saltmarshe Delph (three pairs), Spurn (two pairs) and North Cave (five pairs).

Wetlands within the Dearne and Aire Valleys appear to be a stronghold, with 125 in the Old Moor area at the start of August indicating the strength of the local population, which included six pairs at Edderthorpe and three pairs on Broomhill Flash. Nine pairs bred at Fairburn, while the Lower Aire Valley hosted at least 23 pairs, with 12 of these on Swillington Ings. Maximum counts from the east of the county included: 12 on the Driffield Canal on 6th January; 27 at Beacon Ponds on 10th January; 14 on Bransholme Sewage Lake on 1st October; 13 at Pulfin & High Eske on 4th October and 40 at Welton Waters on 9th October.

Further inland there were 32 at Fairburn Ings in mid-July, 25 at Edderthorpe during August and the aforementioned 125 in the Old Moor area on 5th August. A combined WeBS count between Skelton Lake and Lowther Lake produced 90 in September; there were similar counts at Swillington Ings in the late 1950s, but this represented easily the largest count from the Leeds area over recent years. Finally, the lake at Fountains Abbey held 22 during November and there were 29 on Lakeside, Doncaster on 25th November.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* **A**
Uncommon to scarce resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 3/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 3600: GB threshold 159

A widespread species in Europe found on larger lowland lakes, reservoirs, meres and gravel pits. The breeding and wintering population is probably increasing: small numbers winter on the coast, with 189 in Bridlington Bay in January surpassing the GB qualifying level. South Tees held 22 during February and 12 during December, while Scarborough’s maximum related to parties of 13 off Holbeck on 12th January and again on 26th December. Filey Bay hosted 14 in February and ten again by November, but the Holderness coast south of Flamborough proved to be the favoured wintering area. A flock of 26 were off Barmston on 16th February. However, cold weather at the end of the year ensured an exodus from freezing inland waters; 18 were off the sea at Ulrome on 6th December, while 22 loafed on the sea offshore of Danes Dyke South, Flamborough and 134 were off Barmston on 28th December.

The following maximum counts were received from inland waters: 73 at Winterset Res on 6th January; 26 at Thrybergh during January, 25 at Pugney’s CP in February, 46 at Rother Valley CP on 8th February and 63 at Fairburn Ings by mid April. In the latter half of the year aggregations included: 18 on Hornsea Mere on 13th July, 23 at Lingham Lake during September/October, 51 on Tophill Low on 3rd September, 20 at Bretton Park on 23rd October, 60 on Southfield Res on 7th November, 57 at Winterset Res and 18 at Pulfin & High Eske on 22nd November, 51 at Rother Valley CP on 18th December and finally, 22 at Pugney’s CP during December.

Breeding attempts were scarce along the eastern fringe, but pairs bred successfully at Seamer Road Mere and Wykeham Lakes near Scarborough, Tophill Low and at Pulfin & High Eske (three pairs). Seven pairs all failed at Southfield Res, but three pairs raised young on Hatfield Moors. As an indication of the strength of the population from inland areas, the species bred at eight sites around Sheffield, including three broods at Wentworth Valley, and bred at a minimum of five sites within the Barnsley area; this included ten pairs at Winterset, although only seven young fledged. Ten pairs bred at Fairburn, while there were an estimated 30 pairs on ten waters within the Leeds area, but productivity rates were poor. As in 2008, pairs bred at ten sites within the Harrogate area, with Gouthwaite Res and Nosterfield NR holding more than one pair; again the poor summer weather resulted in few young fledging.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* **A** 57,30,32,18,25
Amber list: scarce migrant and winter visitor
Breeds sporadically on fresh water in Western Europe, much commoner from Eastern Europe eastwards. Disperses westwards to salt or tidal waters, and is more common in the county when hard weather pushes continental winterers further west.

A single in Scarborough’s North Bay on 1st January was a remnant from the previous year, while South Gare hosted a single on 26th February and 1st March. At Filey, a summer-plumaged adult sought sanctuary on East Lea on 9th May (FXM *et al.*).

The first to return was a single that flew south at Spurn on 17th August, followed by another passing Flamborough on 26th. The next accompanied a flock of Teal heading south at Spurn on 3rd September, before a series of seawatch records at Flamborough, with singles logged on 6th, 10th and 16th. The last September records related to one flying north at Spurn on 17th and, more unusually, one heading north-west along the Humber off Sunk Island the next day. A subsequent lull was broken by a single that drifted north on the sea at Spurn on 4th October, but there were no further records until mid month. One flew past Flamborough on 15th October, another tracked past Spurn the following day, and singles were then recorded passing Spurn and Flamborough and one arrived in Filey Bay all on 17th October. The month ended with singles tracking past Flamborough on 28th October and south off Filey on 31st. November’s sole record related to one north off Long Nab on 12th. A single sheltered in Filey Bay from 26th–31st December and one appeared off South Gare on 30th.

Away from the coast and Outer Humber, Flasks Lake hosted a first-winter from 8th February–29th March; it also made occasional visits to nearby Kiln Lake (MBI: RTP: TS *et al.*). Another appeared at Otley Wetlands on 13th February (RHP). The summer-plumaged adult returned to Hatfield Moors on 21st March where it remained in residence until 20th August. A juvenile visited Tophill Low on 2nd September (EJH: RL) with one of similar age on Hornsea Mere on 14th September (JAS). Finally, North Duffield Carrs attracted a single on 1st December (PCR *et al.*) and another sought sanctuary at Blacktoft Sands on 5th/6th December.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* **A** 7,23,19,11,17
Amber list: scarce migrant and winter visitor, more frequent in autumn
A small population of the larger-billed form breeds in Scotland, but it is the smaller-billed eastern population, breeding from Sweden eastwards, which winters in the county.

The coast’s favoured site, Filey Bay, hosted two on 9th January, with one remaining until 16th (J&TGD: CW *et al.*). The next appeared on the sea off South Gare on 7th February (NAP), with presumably the same at nearby Bran Sands on 10th (MDR). Spurn then recorded a single drifting south off Beacon Ponds on 21st March (JC *et al.*). The final record in the first half of the year related to one off South Landing, Flamborough on 3rd April; the only observatory record there during the year (C&PT).

There were no further records until a single at Skipsea on 10th September (JD) followed by three at Atwick on 13th September (JPH: RL). Spurn logged a single south on 2nd October (AR *et al.*), with Scarborough’s sole record relating to one at Cromer Point on 16th October (MF), with another sheltering in Filey Bay the same day (J&TGD). A single then flew south at Spurn on 15th November and finally, another appeared off South Gare on 29th December.

Away from the sea, a juvenile appeared at Hornsea Mere on 16th September (EJH: RL), Rother Valley CP hosted a single on 18th October (KRG: RG *et al.*) and one stayed at Welton Water from 22nd – 31st October (EJH *et al.*).

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* **A**
Amber list: rare breeder, scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
Breeds sporadically in the county, with a distribution, stretching from Spain eastwards.

The sole coastal record referred to a single off Redcar on 23rd February. Tophill Low hosted a single on 12th January followed by three in breeding plumage there from 10th–14th May. In the latter half, a single remained at Tophill from 20th–22nd September and another stayed from 2nd–4th November. Hornsea Mere proved to be the other favoured site within the east, with singles on 31st March and 19th April preceding four on 15th May. The autumn produced a single on 13th September, with the Mere’s last on 21st/22nd September. A single at North Cave on 12th November was the site’s sole record, while Southfield Res attracted singles on 12th March, 12th August and on 8th September.

Thorne Moors attracted a pair on 25th May, with three present on 26th/27th May; unfortunately there were no further records until a single on 13th August. Nearby singles appeared on Hatfield Moors’ Boston Park Lake on 24th April and from 24th August–22nd September. There were three records from the Sheffield area: singles at Thrybergh CP on 11th April and Silverwood Lagoon on 12th May and, finally, a pair at Thrybergh CP on 13th

June. An adult dropped in at Old Moor on 9th July, while there was a series of records from Winterset: a single on 19th April was followed by an adult there from 15th–20th July. Juveniles then took up residence from 2nd–13th August, another appeared on 20th August, one remained from 27th August–13th September, with two present at Winterset on 7th. Nearby an adult remained at the Calder Wetlands, adjacent to Pugney’s CP from 25th March– 8th April.

A single visited Fairburn Ings on 16th May, with a pair at Swillington Ings on 26th May. After a single at Skelton Lake on 24th July, the same location attracted a juvenile on 30th August, with two present the next day. Finally, a single remained at Otley Wetlands from 23rd November–20th December.

A maximum of 22 adults was present during the spring at one location; eventually six pairs bred, fledging seven from first broods and four from the second. Potteric Carr hosted a pair that hatched two young; eventually one fledged successfully; six adults were present on site on 27th April. In addition, a pair displayed at another location for two days in April, but weren’t seen subsequently.



Black-necked Grebe •
Ray Scally

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* A

Amber list: fairly common breeder; common offshore; occasional inland. BBS o/222

In the north of the county there were 60 pairs at Hunt Cliff and an estimated 190 pairs between Hummersea and Cowbar. After an absence in 2008, a pair again nested on Roseberry Topping. In Scarborough four pairs occupied ledges on the Grand Hotel, another four were present in the alum quarry at Stoupe Brow, Ravenscar and there were 32 pairs on the cliffs below the Castle. A boat survey between Filey and Scarborough Spa located a minimum of 410 ‘apparently occupied nests’ on 20th June; although there was no detailed survey of the colony this year, the latter total compares relatively favourably with the 878 pairs located during the Bampton/Flamborough census in 2008. Interestingly an adult prospected the cliffs at Sandy Beaches, Kilnsea on 12th and 13th April.

The largest movements away from Flamborough related to: 278 north and 44 south at Spurn on 5th January, which comprised the largest ever winter movement there; 344 passing Spurn on 13th September; 600 north at Long Nab the following day; 270 south at Filey on 22nd November and 208 south at Spurn on 29th December. However, at Flamborough four-figure counts were attained on three dates: 1172 on 8th February, 1326 on 29th March and 1450 on 14th November.

Inland, one thought to have been dead for a month was located in a hedge bottom between Lund and Lockington on 29th March (MCo), a single headed past Sunk Island on 1st June, followed by another two on 6th June, and a single flew west along the River Aire at Beal Carrs on 7th September (JWi).

Blue Fulmars were prevalent at coastal sites during January, with 19 passing Spurn on 5th, Flamborough logged a monthly total of 30 bird/days, with a best of 20 on 11th, and Filey recorded a single in the first week. Four were logged off Flamborough during February, followed by two on 1st March and two other singles during the month. April produced a single at Flamborough on 11th with another at Filey during the same month. The summer was predictably quieter, with singles off Flamborough on 10th July and 23rd August, while September’s sole record related to one off Barmston on 15th. Flamborough recorded a lone individual on 1st October, with a

single off Filey in late November. Records increased during December, starting with one off Flamborough on 13th, followed by two there and another at Spurn on 29th; a single headed south off Long Nab and three tracked past Spurn the following day. Finally, at least two were off Spurn and a single off Flamborough on New Year’s Eve.

FEA’S/ZINO’S PETREL *Pterodroma feae/madeira* A

1,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; nine previous records

A late summer/autumn rarity from breeding colonies in the north-east Atlantic.

A single that flew north at Spurn at 1136hrs on 5th October was only enjoyed by three birders (AJG: AAH: BP); the first record for Spurn, it was later seen off the Farne Islands, having somehow managed to slip past Flamborough unseen. The tenth county record, with a single at Filey on 26th August the only other recorded away from Flamborough; although that individual had been noted passing the Headland earlier. The last headed north past Flamborough on 23rd October 2005.

CORY’S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* A

6,2,1,2,11

Rare late summer/autumn coastal vagrant from the Mediterranean/North Atlantic

Breeds on the Atlantic Islands off West Africa. Post-breeding dispersal into the North Atlantic occurs, and some reach the North Sea, especially if weather conditions assist.

An improved showing after several lacklustre years, although deducing how many individuals were involved proved nigh on impossible. The first flew north at Spurn at 1120hrs on 18th July (SE: JMT *et al.*) and then Grimston, where it ‘U’-turned and headed back south (TI). Lightning struck twice, when on 27th July a lone individual tracked north past Spurn at 0815hrs (SE: MMc) and later flew north off Grimston (TI). Singles headed south past Spurn at 1850hrs on 28th August (JMT *et al.*) and at 1330hrs the following day (DH *et al.*) while a single flew south close inshore off Long Nab at 1012hrs also on 29th August (NWA). Spurn was again rewarded when one tracked north at 0805hrs on 4th September, with presumably the same south at 1230hrs (SE: RJS: PWr). Flamborough’s first went north on 5th September (PAL *et al.*) with another similarly the following day (CCT *et al.*). Presumably the same individual then flew north past Flamborough shortly after first light on 14th September (PAL *et al.*) and was then noted heading north off Marine Drive, Scarborough at 0805hrs (JM: SW) and Long Nab at 0827hrs (NWA). Another flew north past Filey at 0755hrs on 17th September (CW) and the year’s last headed past Flamborough on 5th October (PAL).

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis* A

7,0,74,2,5

Rare coastal vagrant, mainly in late summer/autumn, from South Atlantic

Breeds at three sites in the South Atlantic, and as a transequatorial migrant moves clockwise around the North Atlantic, reaching Yorkshire waters from July to October.

A single flew north at Flamborough at 0750hrs on 13th September (BR: CCT *et al.*) and two tracked north there the following day, with the second individual flying past at 0810hrs (PAL: CCT *et al.*). Spurn also cashed in, with a single north close inshore past the sea-watching hut at 0935hrs on 14th September (AR: PWr *et al.*) and another flew north past the same location at 0735hrs the next day (AR *et al.*).

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus* A

Amber list: uncommon summer/autumn coastal passage migrant; rare in spring/winter

A migrant from the southern hemisphere that has been declining globally in recent years.

The first tracked north past Spurn on 2nd January and the same site recorded the next, when four flew north on 6th June. However, the ‘autumn’ proved to be disappointing, starting with one north at Long Nab on 10th July followed by another off Flamborough the next day. August was well below par, with no records from Long Nab and Filey, a mere eight bird/days at Flamborough and a best of four at Spurn on 29th August. Matters improved in mid-September with: 17 north at Long Nab and 35 passing Spurn on 14th, Flamborough logged 498 bird/days during the month, which included 109 north on 14th and 152 similarly the next day, and 13 tracked past Filey on 16th September. A smaller pulse moved along the coast on 1st October, with 27 logged at Spurn and 48 at Flamborough. Long Nab and Filey recorded their last on 16th October, four were logged at Spurn the following day and the year’s last flew past Flamborough on 18th October.

More unusually, a single flew south-east along the Humber past Sunk Island on 14th September (JW).

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* **A**

Amber list: fairly common coastal passage migrant, mainly summer/autumn

Breeds around the temperate North Atlantic, including western Britain and Ireland, with the majority of our birds transequatorial migrants wintering off the coast of South America, mostly Brazil, but some remain in the Bay of Biscay.

A single south off Filey on 17th January was unseasonal and well in advance of the next at Flamborough on 10th April. Numbers typically increased during May, with 80 bird/days at Flamborough, including 36 on 4th. Ten headed past Long Nab on 10th May, Spurn recorded 35 the following day, with a similar total passing Spurn on 26th and, finally, Filey logged 27 on 31st May. June proved productive with 617 north past Filey and 547 north at Flamborough on 20th, while a further 126 tracked past the former locality the next day. Maxima were lower in July, with peaks of 342 passing Flamborough on 11th, 177 south at Long Nab on 17th July and 258 south at Long Nab and 125 at Spurn on 30th July. August disappointed, but numbers increased substantially with the advent of strong northerly winds in September: 945 passed Flamborough on 3rd, followed by 922 on 5th and 920 on 14th. Northbound passage at other watchpoints on 14th included: 409 at Long Nab, 141 at Grimston and 470 through Spurn. Small numbers lingered into October with a peak of 64 north at Flamborough on 4th. At the year-end singles tracked past Filey and Flamborough on 30th December and three flew south at Spurn on the same day.

On the Humber two headed upriver past Sunk Island on 7th September, with four passing the same location on 14th.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus* **A**

45,48,67,24,51

UK BAP species: scarce coastal migrant, mainly in late summer/autumn

Breeds in declining numbers in the Mediterranean Sea, from where post-breeding dispersal takes place. Currently a regular visitor to British waters, with around 1,000 individuals reported annually.

A much improved showing following a dismal 2008, starting with one south at Filey on 17th July and a single north at Spurn on 29th July. Flamborough logged 11 bird/days during August, with two noted on both 30th and 31st, while a single headed north past Filey on 23rd August. September proved to be the most productive month, with records on eight dates at Flamborough, including a best of five on 3rd. In addition, Spurn logged singles south on 3rd September and north on 5th September, one flew south past Grimston on 7th, singles flew north at Hornsea and Long Nab on 14th September and two more tracked north off Hornsea on 15th September. The only other September record related to one south at Spurn on the final day. Three singles flew north at Spurn on 1st October, with a single off Flamborough on the same date. Flamborough hosted another on 3rd, followed by a single off Long Nab the next day and another at Flamborough on 5th. October's last related to lone individuals passing Long Nab on 12th and Flamborough the following day. Unusually there were several records towards the year-end starting with Scarborough's latest ever off Long Nab on 28th November followed by singles south at Filey and Spurn the next day. Flamborough logged one on 12th December and, finally, Spurn's latest ever tracked south on 30th December.

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* **A**

Amber list: scarce to uncommon coastal migrant and non-breeding visitor to the coast; rare inland

This species breeds on islands off the west coast of Britain, dispersing southwards in autumn and gale-driven birds can sometimes be seen off the Yorkshire coast at this time. In summer, wanderers are present in the North Sea and respond to tape luring.

A single flew north at Spurn at 0840hrs on 9th July and another flew south at Spurn at 0645hrs on 6th August. The only other was noted heading north at Flamborough on 4th October.

Ringling sessions resulted in a single trapped at Spurn on 5th July, two at Filey on 12th July, two at Spurn on 16th July, three at Thornwick Bay, Flamborough on 18th July and, finally, three were trapped at Filey on 2nd August.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* **A**

77,6,13,8,23

Amber list: rare to scarce coastal migrant, usually late autumn; rare inland

Breeds on remote islands off north and north-west Scotland and Ireland, although it is a common species, it usually feeds well offshore and Yorkshire records usually involve gale-driven birds.

A single flew south off Flamborough on 12th September (BR *et al.*), with another on the Humber at Spurn the same day, which later flew off west (MJP *et al.*). The following day singles reoriented back north off Flamborough (AMa: BR: RS *et al.*), Atwick (EJH: RL) and Spurn (AAH *et al.*) and singles similarly flew north at Flamborough on 14th (PAL *et al.*) and Hornsea on 15th September (BF). Two then headed north past Flamborough on 17th

September (CCT *et al.*). The last sight record related to ten off the Point at Spurn during the early morning on 19th September (PL). Inland, a single was picked up dead at Clapham (west of Settle) on 7th December (*per* TH). Surprisingly, a late individual then flew south off Spurn on 29th December (RJB: SE).

Two were trapped during nocturnal petrel ringing sessions: one at Filey on 2nd August and another at Spurn during the early hours on 8th August.

GANNET *Morus bassanus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon but increasing breeder, fairly common offshore. BBS 1/222

Breeds in the North Atlantic, with 60% of the East Atlantic population nesting in Britain and Ireland and migrates southwards in autumn.

A count of the Bempton/Flamborough colony registered 7691 'apparently occupied sites' coupled with 1442 non-breeders and around 7000 nestlings.

The largest movements in the Scarborough area were obtained from Long Nab, where 700 headed south in 3.25 hours on 31st August, 800 flew north on 14th September and 745 tracked north on 17th October. Given its proximity to the breeding colony, counts at Filey were unsurprisingly higher and peaked in September: southbound movements totaled 3600 on both 4th and 12th, while 4760 flew south on 13th September. Flamborough recorded several similar sized movements, with a best of 6400 on 8th October. Evidence of the late autumn/early winter exodus was illustrated by monthly best counts of just 180 in November and 100 in December. September also proved to be the best month at Spurn, including movements of: 1196 on 3rd, 1759 on 4th, 2245 on 10th, 3633 on 13th (the highest ever site count), 2300 on 14th and 1100 on 15th. The first half of October was also productive at Spurn, with peaks of 1920 on 5th and 1800 on 9th.

Along the Humber, five flew east at Paull Holme Strays on 27th June, a juvenile flew past Patrington Haven on 5th September, followed by 16 passing Sunk Island on 14th. A juvenile then tracked past Patrington Haven on 2nd October and two immatures then 'U-turned' off Paull Holme Strays on 10th October. Away from the Humber, juveniles overflew Nosterfield NR and Wheldrake Ings on 11th October.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* **A**

Scarce resident breeder; fairly common winter visitor and migrant. BBS 14/222

Nominate *carbo* breeds on the coasts of the North Atlantic, including the Yorkshire coast. Cormorants also breed at three inland sites in the county, and continental race *sinensis* constitute most if not all of this population. Non-breeding summering birds are present on many inland waters. The inland and wintering population is increasing.

During the breeding season, 19 pairs were at Hunt Cliff and a further 36 pairs were counted at Boulby; both slightly up on the previous year. Scarborough recorded its first breeding records for many years, with five nests at Blea Wyke, Ravenscar; however, in 1975 there were 32 nests at the same site. The cliffs north of Filey Brigg held 67 adults when surveyed from a boat, equating to around 42 'apparently occupied nests'.

Coastal movement peaked in August and September, with southbound counts of 162 off Flamborough on 30th August and 225 passing the Headland on 5th September. It is likely that many of these birds originate from Scottish colonies, as illustrated by a chick ringed on 25th July 2009 at Inverbervie, north-east Scotland being relocated in Scarborough harbour on 28th October. Passage was more subdued earlier in the year, although Spurn recorded a new spring record on 12th March when 80 (including a flock of 70) came in from the east and later headed north.

The south side of the Tees hosted significant numbers throughout the year. The maximum count during the first half related to 83 in February; larger numbers were present during the autumn, with 113 in July, rising to 233 in August and 96 were still present in October. Hornsea Mere continued to attract large numbers, with 158 present on 31st January; of 34 attributed to sub-species, 30 belonged to the *sinensis* race. However, the general impression suggested that most individuals usually belonged to the *carbo* race. Only 48 remained on 4th April and similar numbers were present throughout the summer months until an increase in the latter half of July, with 109 present on 28th. The total peaked during early September, with 224 on 2nd dropping to 194 on 26th September and 157 were still in residence on 12th December. The Tophill Low/Watton complex also attracted notable numbers, especially during the autumn, with 155 present on 4th October, increasing to 219 four days later and peaking at 260 on 11th October; numbers then reduced to leave 172 on 19th October. Further inland many waters hosted small numbers, although 140 were present at Beal Carrs on 10th January and 83 at Southfield Res on 12th September represented a new site record.

No detailed information was received for the Wheldrake Ings colony which usually contains around 25 nests. There were ten occupied nests at Castle Howard Lake, while by far the largest inland colony is located at Fairburn Ings; there were 93 breeding pairs on the Flashes and a maximum of 231 individuals during June.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* **A**
Amber list: scarce coastal breeder; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor
Breeds on rocky coasts of the northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean, including northeast Yorkshire, with usually only local post-breeding dispersal.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
South Tees	39	17	12	3	0	0	0	0	7	16	0	1

Rarely more than six congregated in Scarborough waters, although a flock of 14 flew south past Marine Drive on 26th December. A total of 58 tracked past Long Nab from August to the start of December, with 15 on 28th November the daily best.
There was no survey of the Bempton/Flamborough colony which held 24 pairs in 2008.
Around ten wintered around Filey Brigg/Bay in the first half, with numbers increasing to 26 on 25th January and 25 on 28th February. It wasn't until November that numbers again rose, with four during the first week building to 15 by 28th. Unsurprisingly the seawatch team at Flamborough recorded the largest counts, with 115 on 23rd August and 120 on 31st October. Spurn's only double-figure count related to 12 on 5th December, otherwise most activity was confined to September/October.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: rare breeding species and scarce migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/192
The small British breeding population continues to slowly recover following extensive management work on reedbeds across the country. Yorkshire's small breeding population is augmented by continental immigrants in winter.

In the extreme north-east one appeared to be wintering at Coatham Marsh with records on 20th-24th January, 13th February and again on 15th March. Elsewhere a single was located at Warrenby on 28th January. An injured bird was picked up at North Bay, Scarborough on 25th September, but unfortunately it suffered from a broken leg and had to be put down by a vet. Presumably a migrant about to leave for the Continent, a single at North Marsh, Flamborough on 20th March represented only the second record for the Headland. Tophill Low hosted a single on 6th January and on 10th February, while at the year-end one was present on 10th November. A single at Welton Waters on 18th and 21st January was followed by another on 15th October and one visited Saltmarshe Delph on 24th August.

Near Rotherham an unusual record related to a single flying over Brampton Bierlow on 20th April. Further to the west in the Sheffield area, Blackburn Meadows hosted one on 12th January and again on 17th February, while a single roosted at Pit-House West until at least 31st January and again from 28th November through to the year-end. Over-wintering Bitterns frequented three sites near Barnsley during the first quarter: up to two were present at Old Moor throughout January and February, with one remaining until 15th March. Nearby Wintersetts hosted a single from 9th January-25th March; one also remained at Carlton Marsh from January until 20th March and was joined by a second individual on several dates in February and March. A single returned to the Dearne Valley on 26th July, with sporadic sightings thereafter from Old Moor and Edderthorpe Flash until 5th August. A single re-appeared at Old Moor on 17th November, one took up residence at Wintersetts from 9th December to the year-end, with another present from 27th December through into 2010. In addition, a single appeared at Denaby Ings on 27th December and Carlton Marsh hosted another on New Year's Eve. A single was noted on several January and February dates at Pugney's CP and returned from 14th October; a second individual was also present on several dates during December.

A lone individual was present at Fairburn Ings on several dates in January and again on 2nd March, with one returning during the last days of December. Another appeared to be wintering at nearby Swillington Ings with the last records from March. After a gap one re-appeared on 10th/11th May followed by isolated records on 15th and 21st July and 9th August. Although a single on 5th October hinted at one returning to winter, it was presumed a migrant, as there were no further records.

Near Harrogate Nicholson's Lagoons hosted a single on 16th February. One initially observed at Staveley NR on 6th February remained until 6th March. In the second winter period one over-wintered at Nosterfield Reedbed from 4th November, with the same visiting nearby Flasks Lake on 1st December. Malham Tarn recorded its fourth and fifth ever, with one on 17th January preceding another heading north on 12th June.

Blacktoft Sands only hosted a single booming individual during the year; however, two active nests were subsequently located. Both females fed young for over 60 days (first hatching date about 18th/21st May and

fledging date around 19th/21st July), with one adult visiting two reedbed locations, indicating more than one chick was being fed at this site. It was thought that both females each fledged at least two young, with a photo of a fledged chick (indicated by eye colour) posted on Birdguides. This is the first time young have been positively proved to have fledged at Blacktoft. A major factor towards the nesting success seemed to be the ability of each female to fly off site to locations up to 3km away to collect food during the mid-brood period. Another site along the Humber attracted a booming male, with a nest there almost certainly fledging young.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* **A**
Amber list: scarce visitor in increasing numbers
Within Britain, its status has changed dramatically in recent years following a northwards expansion of its range in France. The species has established colonies in southern England and continues to expand its range.
Nosterfield NR hosted a single on 6th January with another remaining at the same location from 7th-18th April. Singles then appeared at Nosterfield NR on 29th June, at Kipling Hall Lake for a week from 1st July and in at Shawford Water Meadow on 15th July, before a single took up temporary residence at Nosterfield NR from 18th-30th July. Hay-a-Park GP recorded its first ever on 12th September and presumably the same lone individual then graced both Lingham Lake and Nosterfield NR the following day. Further east a minimum of eight individuals visited the Scarborough district, including two on Flixton/Cayton Carrs from 18th March to 5th April, with one lingering to 16th April. Late in the year a single frequented a stream at Ebberston from 1st December through to the year-end. In Ryedale a single over-wintered at Pickering Keld Head from 25th January to 2nd March. Filey's first occurred as recently as 1994, but records have been annual since 2000; there were 20 bird/days during the course of the year, including two at Filey Dams on 25th/26th November. Flamborough logged eight bird/days, including a single on 7th January and three on 5th October.

Records increased substantially south of Flamborough, as illustrated by events at Pulfin & High Eske: a single on 19th January was the first, with two present from 1st February, increasing to three by 21st and then four on 15th March. Up to four were noted on sporadic dates through the summer, with five present from 2nd August and numbers subsequently increased to peak at 16 on 18th August. Thereafter numbers slowly ebbed, although ten remained on 19th September; Pulfin's last was recorded on 12th December.

Somewhat surprisingly Spurn recorded a drop in records from 516 bird/days in 2008 down to 415 bird/days; a single on 20th January represented the only record in the first three months. Low numbers were recorded on sporadic dates from April, with an appreciable increase from August through to October; ten were present on 27th September and 14 were logged four days later. A party of six also flew south over the sea at Spurn on 30th October.

Most appreciably-sized wetlands in the southern half of the county hosted low single figures, but Swillington Ings recorded eight on 25th July; six were at Fairburn Ings during September, while four remained at Old Moor during mid-August.

However, the most exciting record was undoubtedly the first ever successful breeding attempt in the county, with a pair raising two young within a Grey Heron colony, having first prospected the site in 2008.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba* **O,3,5,5,3**
Rare spring and summer migrant; 37 previous records (39 individuals)
Firmly establishing itself as an annual visitor, the first was photographed as it circled Staveley NR on 24th April before heading off south-east (RE: MGM: PTT *et al.*). A single stayed at the west end of Hornsea Mere from 26th August and was last seen in flight at 1100hrs on 28th (JMB: MRO *et al.*). Presumably a different individual headed south over the sea at Spurn at 0920hrs on 28th August before turning west; after landing briefly on Clubley's Scrape, it continued west past Easington (DH: AR *et al.*).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* **A**
Uncommon resident breeder, winter visitor and passage migrant. BBS 43/222
The BTO Heronries Census recorded 379 nests from monitored sites, which compares to 396 nests in 2006. Bretton Park hosted the largest colony that comprised of 63 nests, while a colony near Otley held 31 nests. In addition there were six other heronries across the county that contained more than 20 nests. A colony near Otley typically holds between 31 and 42 nests, with productivity varying from 1.9 juveniles/nest (in 2005) and 2.9 (in 2003/2007); this year the productivity was relatively good, at 2.6 juveniles/nest. However a colony in the Washburn Valley experienced its poorest ever year in terms of productivity; down to only nine nests (19 present as recently as 2003), the productivity was also its lowest ever, at a mere 2.1 juveniles/nest. In the north of the county a traditional heronry at Crow Wood, Crathorne was unoccupied this year; having held 33 nests in 2008, the reason for the absence was not apparent.

Monthly Maxima recorded at Old Moor; the peak of 32 was recorded on 2nd April											
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
18	25	16	32	12	21	22	25	28	19	14	9

Coastal passage was relatively light, with nine at Flamborough on 10th October the best local count. At Spurn 15 flew south and two came in off between 14th March and 3rd June. In the autumn, 57 flew south and 22 came in off, including 17 south on 13th June and eight in off the sea on 4th September.

A wing-tagged individual visited Colton on 30th March and nearby Skelton Lake on 6th July; initially ringed as a nestling at Pit 74, Cotswold Water Park on 6th May 2008, it had travelled further north than any of the others marked in the project.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* AE

Scarce migrant; escapes from Harewood confuse status

As with previous years, it is hard to determine which are genuine, wild individuals and which originate from Harewood House.

As well as several records from West and South Yorkshire, an adult flew south at Spurn towards Lincolnshire at 1145hrs on 4th April (AJS *et al.*), followed by another drifting over Nosterfield NR on 11th April (SPW). At the end of the year, one brought festive cheer when it flew in off the sea at Scalby Mills at 1300hrs on 25th December (MNR). Undoubtedly the same unringed individual then spent most of Boxing Day wandering fields at Flamborough before heading off inland (TeD *et al.*).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* A

0,0,0,1,1

Extremely rare visitor; one previous record over last decade

A single flew south past the sea-watching hut at Spurn during a westerly gale at 1630 hrs on 3rd October (JMT *et al.*); the fourth record for the observatory, with the last as recently as 2008. Somewhat surprisingly this was the only record, as it coincided with an appreciable influx into the UK during September/October; at least 38 individuals appeared across the country, with singles heading as far as north-east Scotland.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* A

8,20,40,23,31

Amber list: scarce migrant and summer visitor April – September

Breeds in south-east Europe with outposts in Spain and the Netherlands, where its population has recently increased.

The first flew north over Beacon Ponds on 18th April (AJS *et al.*) followed by two adults recorded at both Swillington Ings and nearby Fairburn Ings on 30th April (RM *et al.*). A single visited Kiplin Hall, east of Catterick, on 8th May and perhaps the same wide-ranging individual was responsible for several subsequent sightings. A single dropped in briefly at Filey Dams on 9th May and one then flew south-east over Whiteholme on 10th May (ANu) and one appeared on the central causeway at Marfield NR at 1610hrs on the same day (IV); the Whiteholme record represented a first for Calderdale. An adult at Scalby Lodge Pond from 0615hrs to 0800hrs on 17th May (NWA: MF: RNH: SW) preceded four that flew north over Flamborough on 19th May (PC *et al.*).

Almost ever present at Blacktoft Sands in June; two arrived on 3rd, with three present on 12th/13th, before reducing to two and eventually a single stayed until 25th June. Scaling Dam hosted an immature on 5th June, before four tracked north over the Triangle at Spurn and then headed out east from Beacon Ponds on 9th June (RDHa). The next flew south-west over Linthwaite, Huddersfield on 12th June (CH) and a single again appeared on Scaling Dam on 19th June. An immature then graced the Main Marsh at Old Moor on 22nd June, before one spent the evening at Paull Holme Strays the next day before heading off east (TW). A single that dropped in at Wheldrake Ings on 24th June then headed off north and one circled Thorne Moors before flying off east the same day (RW); perhaps the same roving individual appeared at Fairburn Ings the next day.

The sole July record related to two heading north over Watton Carrs on 2nd July (RAt), while ‘Spoonbill Flash’ appropriately hosted a single at Fairburn Ings on 10th August. Finally, an immature appeared at Old Moor on 18th/19th August, with presumably the same visiting Edderthorpe Flash on 18th and 23rd–26th August (JIM: AS *et al.*).

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* A

17,21,16,67,23

Amber list: rare breeder and scarce migrant May – September

This long-distance migrant breeds from temperate Europe east to western Asia, usually arriving mid- to late May, and leaving from mid-August after a short breeding season. There is a small British breeding population, but passage birds can include continental migrants.

It was a return to normal, after the excesses of the previous year. Migrants included one over Skelton Castle on 11th June (DAM) and an adult male south over Spurn at 1130hrs on 19th June (AAH *et al.*). In July a female flew slowly north at Long Nab and circled Newlands Dale, Cloughton on 29th (NWA), whilst in August there were singles south over Thorne Moors on 8th (RJSp) and south-west over Askham Bog on 28th (MC). The only two records in September came from the south-eastern edge of the Yorkshire Dales, with one north over Barden Scale on 9th (AGG: GH *et al.*) and one east over Snaygill Ings, Skipton on 12th (RC).

In the regular breeding area, 13 adults (seven males, six females) were noted between 17th May and 27th August; one pair fledged three young and a possible second breeding pair was also present.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* AC

Amber list: scarce introduced breeder and visitor from introduction schemes. BBS 7/211

There was a further increase in the number of breeding pairs and an associated expansion in range, with the results shown in the table. Although there were numerous sightings from many sites, away from the core areas birds are still relatively scarce.

The continued range expansion and population increase reflects the number of reports, with the majority again from the main breeding areas. Notable counts included 25 at a site in the York area on 10th January, ten near Spofforth on 21st April, eight over Farnham GP on 18th August and 17 near Spofforth on 17th November. Elsewhere, there were reports of wandering individuals from across the county, including ten sightings in the Halifax area, 13 around Rotherham and an increase in the Barnsley area. On the coast there was a single at Flamborough on 16th February, two south at Spurn on 31st March, a lone individual over Hornsea Mere and Wassand on 20th April and, finally, one over Filey on 24th April.

There was a continued increase in the number and distribution of breeding birds in 2009, making it more difficult to locate and monitor all nesting attempts. Sixteen new territorial pairs were located; however, several pairs moved nest sites from the previous year, with seven pairs from 2008 not relocated. In several cases, successful nests were only discovered after the young had fledged, so the number of fledged juveniles is a minimum estimate.

Minimum number of breeding pairs of Red Kites in Yorkshire in 2009

Area	No. of pairs located	No. of pairs bred	No. of successful pairs	Min. no. of fledged young
West Yorkshire	41	38	37	69
North Yorkshire	28	24	23	39
East Yorkshire	8	5	5	9
Totals	77	67	65	117

On the negative side, several were illegally poisoned, including one found dead in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Another dead next to poisoned bait in North Yorkshire, also had old shotgun wounds, fractured ribs and residues of rodenticide, emphasising the continuing threats to birds of prey in certain areas.

Reference: *Yorkshire Red Kite Newsletter* Issue 11.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* A

Amber list: scarce but increasing breeder; uncommon migrant. BBS BBS 3/211

This opportunistic species has increased in numbers in the county, and although most migrate south as far as southern Africa, a few birds now over-winter.

This species continues to fare well, with another increase in records. Passage was noted at a number of coastal sites during the first half of the year: Flamborough logged singles on four dates in April, two on 19th May and one the following day; Filey recorded three singles on 28th April, 7th and 10th May; a single south at Spurn on 21st February represented the earliest ever site record, and was followed by a further 43 up until the end of June, with a peak of four on 18th May. It was a record year around Scarborough, with reports from ten sites in the first six months and from 18 sites in the latter half of the year.

Inland there were fewer reports than normal in the Bradford area, with only five records comprising singles at Barden Scale on 31st July, 10th and 19th August and 9th September and another at Norwood Edge on 14th September. However, six records from Upper Wharfedale in the latter half of the year were above average. In the Harrogate area there were three records from Staveley NR, two from the Nosterfield area and singles near Pateley Bridge during the first half. Later reports included a juvenile at Staveley NR on 5th August, an adult at

Nosterfield on two dates in August and one in September, with other records from Ripon Parks and two over Arnagill/High Ash Head Moors.

In the Leeds area there were sightings on 142 dates between 10th March and 27th November at Swillington Ings, with a maximum day count of five in August. Away from this site the only other records were singles at Skelton Lake on 15th June and Leventhorpe Hall Pond on 8th August. At least one bird was present at Fairburn Ings between 21st March and 29th November, with two present on one date in June and July and up to three regularly on several dates in August and September.

There were four spring records in the Barnsley area between 15th April and 11th May and 18 in the autumn between 6th August and 22nd November. Also in the south of the county, there were three records from the Rotherham area and 27 from around Southfield Res. Sightings were regular at Hatfield Moors from late July until September, with a maximum day count of four. There were over 120 records from Thorne Moors, with a best of six on 23rd August. North Cave Wetlands logged a single in February, two records in May, a single on two dates in July/August, three dates in September, four dates in October and on single dates in November and December.

Blacktoft Sands experienced a record year, with nine active nests rearing a total of at least 20 young. Another pair also nested on the riverbank opposite the reception hide (outside the reserve boundary) and at least seven, possibly eight pairs, nested on Whitton Sands. All the nests appeared to be successful. Unbelievable to think that only 18 years ago Marsh Harrier was an irregular breeder! The roost at Whitton Sands contained 25 individuals on 24th January, with 12 present there on 5th December. Away from the estuary, the only breeding information received related to an adult male carrying sticks at Pulfin & High Eske NR on 8th May, with a pair present there on the following two days and display noted at Thorne Moors. A pair again fledged two young at Saltmarshe Delph.

Autumn passage at Flamborough included singles on 30th July, on four dates in August, including two on 25th, one date in September and a single on 23rd October. There were five records at Filey all in August, whilst at Spurn there were 43 records between 19th July and 24th October, including two in off the sea on 3rd October. Inland, one near Pen-y-ghent, Ribblesdale on 11th August and a juvenile at Walshaw Dean on 8th October were notable records from the west.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* **A**

Red list: rare breeder; uncommon to scarce migrant and winter visitor

Numbers breeding on upland moors across England are perilously low, primarily due to illegal persecution by some gamekeepers on grouse moorland.

There was a further decline in the number of wintering birds across most areas, apart from nine in the north of the county, the highest number for many years. Elsewhere, up to three wintered on the moors and the forests in the Scarborough area in the early part of the year, but in the Yorkshire Dales, there were only six records during the year from the Bradford area, all but one from Barden Scale and only three records from Upper Wharfedale early on. A male also remained at a site near Rotherham until 25th March.

The immediate environs of the Humber Estuary produced regular sightings at the start of the year. The Spurn area hosted singles over Long Bank on 13th and 16th January, 19th February, four dates in April and three dates in May. Within the Spurn observatory recording area, there were singles on 14th and 21st February, 7th March, probably the same individual on 21st and 22nd April, followed by a male on 26th. Further upriver, there were sporadic sightings of a ringtail at Sunk Island from 1st January to 15th March. A male appeared regularly at Blacktoft Sands from 2nd January through until 14th February, with ringtails present from 18th–24th January and again on 1st March. Two ringtails hunted the saltmarsh at Welwick on 4th February, with perhaps the same two near Patrington on 21st February. Finally, a male flew through Faxfleet on 2nd April.

Given the current scarcity of this species it is now possible to list virtually all the records received, including singles at Thorne Moors on 11th and 28th January; 24th and 28th February and 25th April. Also in January records included singles at Greenhow on 4th, near Hawes on 6th and 15th, near Gouthwaite Res on 8th, Sleddale on 13th and 17th, with a ringtail hunting Sleddale and Guisborough Moor between 17th and 20th. Later in the month, there were singles at Wykeham on 18th, Flixton Carrs on 27th and near Scarhouse Res on 17th and 31st. February produced singles in Langstrothdale on 7th, Ravenscar (two) on 16th, Hatfield Moors on 9th and 21st, at Horsestones (Sheffield) on 21st and Strines Moor on 28th. March records included singles at Wilfholme on 6th, Ravenscar and Wykeham Forest on 7th, Thorne Moors on 24th, with a fine adult male over Eccup Res on 25th, the first record for the site.

Sightings continued to be scarce in April with singles at Hatfield Moors on 5th, over Harwood Dale on 6th, Bradfield Moors (Sheffield) on 14th, Stony Marl Moor on 20th, a female at Fylingdales Moor on 23rd and Dukes

Road (Sheffield) on 26th. Records in May had a distinctly easterly bias with singles at Flamborough on 1st, 12th and 20th; Scaling Dam on 5th, Buckton on 17th and Hackness on 22nd. At Spurn birds moving south included singles on 1st and 20th, a male on 26th May and a ringtail on 1st June. There was also a female at Long Nab on 7th June.

Despite the large areas of prime heather moorland nesting habitat there was again a notable absence of breeding records. In former breeding areas a male wing-tagged in Northumberland in 2003 was in Colsterdale on 5th March, with a female in the same area on 26th – 29th, which was also possibly seen at Gouthwaite Res on the latter date. A satellite-tagged, first-year male from Bowland was on Dallowgill Moor on 28th March and a female was in Colsterdale on 20th April. A first-summer male displayed in the Washburn/Upper Wharfedale area in May, but did not attract a mate.

In the latter half of the year there were singles at Spurn on 29th August, 25th October and males on 13th and 26th November. Sunk Island again proved to be favoured late on, with a ringtail noted frequently from 14th November until the end of the year.

Elsewhere there were records at Leventhorpe Hall Pond on 12th July and ringtails at Sleddale and Guisborough later in the month. In August there were records from Southfield Res on 11th, two ringtails, probably juveniles, near Malham Tarn on 29th and one on Hatfield Moors on 31st. At Fairburn Ings there were singles on one day only in both September and October, with ringtails at Swillington Ings on 27th September. October produced records from South Anston on 2nd, the only confirmed record from the Barnsley area was on Langsett Moor on 4th, Gouthwaite Res on 10th, Hatfield Moors on 20th, Hummersea on 24th and Scalby and Scargill on 30th. One at Scarhouse Res on 31st October and 9th November may have been the satellite-tagged bird that was tracked in Colsterdale from late October to 29th December. Additional November records included singles at Hummersea on 10th, a wing-tagged female at Swillington Ings on 20th, a male at Star Carr on 22nd, a female at Fylingdales Moor and male in Langdale Forest on 23rd. In December singles were at Thorne Moors on 14th and Swillington from 18th – 20th, whilst a male and female seen over Starbeck (Harrogate) from Morrison’s car park enlivened a routine shopping trip for one lucky observer on 28th!

Calderdale was the only area where there were regular sightings in the second winter period, with an adult male on 13th and 17th, being joined by a ringtail on 18th September. The adult male and two ringtails were noted on 8th, with a first-winter male on 29th October. Numbers increased during November with an adult male and three ringtails on 5th; single ringtails roosted on 6th, 12th and 22nd, with two noted on 8th, 15th and 26th. At Thorne Moors singles were noted on 22nd and 24th November and 9th December.

MONTAGU’S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* **A**

11,4,3,7,8

Amber list: rare to scarce migrant: has bred

The rarest and most migratory of Britain’s three breeding species of harrier, the national population has recovered from just one pair in 1975 to about a dozen today. It breeds from north-west Europe east to Siberia wintering south of the Sahara. It is a rare spring and autumn migrant in the county, although each year there is a small number of unconfirmed reports.

In the first quarter, a very early adult male was photographed as it hunted for 20 minutes in the late evening of 11th April near Deanhead Res, in the Scammonden Valley (JWe); undoubtedly the same individual was then relocated at Swillington Ings the following day (DAH: PRM: JMS).

A male over the west side of Winterset CP at 0720hrs on 11th May represented only the second record for the site (SD). Also in May an adult female flew east along the road at Nosterfield NR on 16th (SPW), a second-summer male flew south at Spurn on 19th (NP *et al.*) and a male flew east along the South Cliffs at Flamborough on 30th May (CCT *et al.*). June’s sole record related to a ringtail that headed north at Hatfield Moors on 12th June (JWo). In the latter half of the year, a juvenile flew south past the Warren at Spurn on 24th August (AR *et al.*) and Potteric Carr’s first ever, a ringtail, appeared over Huxter Well on 31st August (SMB: RJSc *et al.*).

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* **AC**

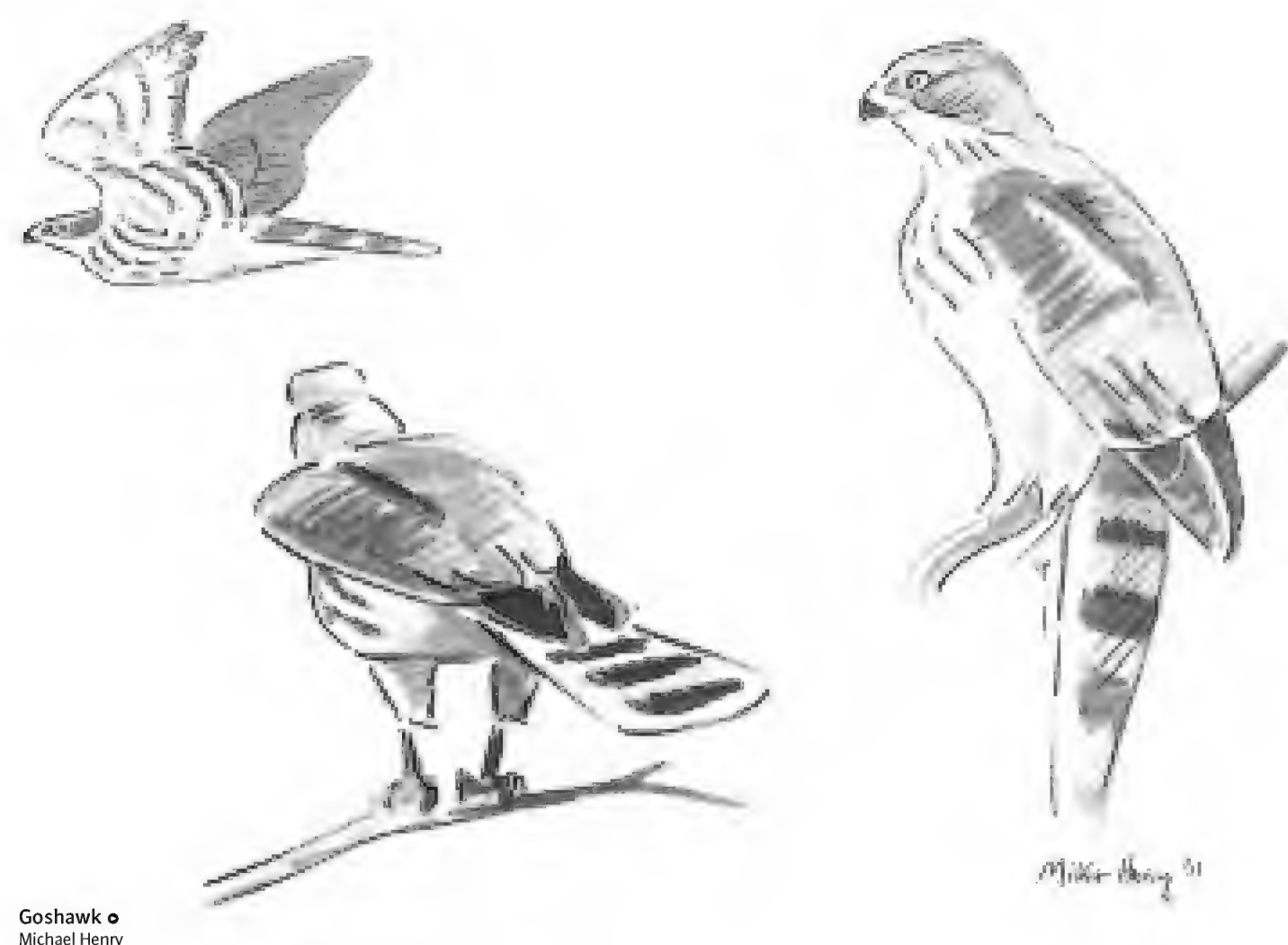
Scarce resident breeder and passage migrant. BBS 1/211

With few records received of what can be a very secretive species, the true status of this magnificent raptor is difficult to determine.

It is difficult to confirm breeding attempts given the unobtrusive nature of this species, particularly where at low population densities; however, territorial birds were present at one site in the north-east, with singles noted at several other sites during the breeding season. An estimated 20 pairs were present in the large forests in the north-east of the county.

Elsewhere, in Halifax there were 11 acceptable records between 31st March and 20th October, but only four records in the neighbouring Huddersfield area, with no displaying birds at a recent breeding site. In the Bradford area there was a male at a regular site on three dates between 1st and 22nd March, with a female present on 18th March and another at a second site between 29th and 31st March; although there were also three males present on the latter date, there was no evidence of breeding.

There were two birds at one site and a single at another in the York area in mid-March and records from 14 locations in the Sheffield area. Generally the Barnsley area recorded an increase in records over recent years, although persecution by landowners and gamekeepers is clearly having a deleterious effect. Displaying adults were noted regularly at an upland site near Barnsley from 20th February until 9th April, with two males present on 5th April; in addition, display was noted at a further four sites within the Barnsley recording area.



Goshawk •
Michael Henry

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* **A**

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 14/211

The population of this widespread but probably under-reported species, after a period of rapid increase, is now static or still increasing slowly.

This species continues to be found across the county and from local reports would appear to be doing well, being widespread in the Scarborough area, widespread and common in the Bradford area, with a similar status in Upper Wharfedale and there were 182 records from the Calderdale area. It is reported to be now almost as common as Kestrel in the Barnsley area, with nine in the Old Moor area on 19th April and 6th September and territorial pairs at Wharnccliffe Wood, Wharnccliffe Heath (two) and Worsbrough Valley. Breeding was also confirmed around Barnsley at Langsett (two pairs), up to two pairs at both Goldthorpe and Wilthorpe Marsh, and there were at least two pairs in the Little Don Valley and one at Winterset.

Along the coast presumed migrants were recorded in late March and early April at Flamborough and five were noted from Filey Dams on 17th May. At Spurn a minimum of 45 flew south between 15th March and 21st May, including six on 29th March, seven on 20th and eight on 21st and 25th April. In the autumn there was only light passage at Flamborough and it was a poor autumn at Spurn: 24 were logged going south and four in off the sea, with peak counts of four on several dates in September and October and six on two dates in early November.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* **A**

Increasing resident breeder; scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 25/211

The national and local breeding populations continue to increase as a result of range expansion, and it has become noticeably more numerous in the last ten years, particularly in the Wolds and VC 62.

It is encouraging to report that the population increase continued into 2009. Displaying birds were seen in Sleddale and at Grinkle during late March and early April, with a probable breeding pair in Guisborough Forest. The upsurge in records around Scarborough continues, with 18 nesting pairs present and there were increasing numbers of pairs present through the Yorkshire Wolds; up to 14 were present near North Cave Wetlands in the autumn.

In the west a pair again bred at Malham Tarn and there were only two confirmed nesting attempts in the Harrogate area; but with over 300 records during the year, there must have been many more attempts going undetected. Notable counts near Harrogate included 11 at Gouthwaite on 7th January, 12 at Farnham GP on 29th March, 18 in the Nosterfield area on 10th April and ten at Gouthwaite Res on 27th August. It is considered widespread in Wharfedale, where 15 young fledged from nine nesting pairs in one part of the study area, with breeding reported in adjacent areas of the Washburn Valley. There was a further increase in Calderdale, with 110 records during the year, including territorial birds at three sites.

Breeding was suspected at four sites within the Huddersfield area and the population is also still increasing around Leeds, with ten at Swillington Ings on 26th September and eight at Stockton Farm on 16th October; Fairburn Ings hosted ten on 11th March and again on 7th October.

The increase continued in the Barnsley area, with up to four noted at Old Moor, one confirmed pair near Bretton and suspected breeding at Winterset, High Wood, Savin Royd Wood and Deffer Wood. It was also noted regularly in the Sheffield area, with 12 at Ewden Heights on 6th September.

Passage along the coast, especially at Filey and Flamborough, is increasingly difficult to detect as pairs establish nearby both areas along the edge of the Wolds. However, there is a distinct spring and autumn bias at Filey with singles noted on 15th March, 5th and 27th April, 5th, 7th and 25th May; there were also records on three May dates at Flamborough, including two on 2nd. At Spurn there were records on 14th March, two on 22nd March, singles over on 4th and 21st April, a different individual the next day and one on 8th June.

Presumed autumn passage included singles over Scarborough Tip on 5th September and Cromer Point on 3rd October, whilst at Filey there were records on 11th August, 20th September (two) and 4th and 18th October. At Flamborough a single on 27th August was followed by numerous records during September, including five over Danes Dykes on 11th. There were records on five dates during October, including four on 11th and finally, a single on 7th November; however, many of the Flamborough records could easily have referred to post-breeding dispersal. Further south one over Skeffling on 16th August became the first ringing record for Spurn, after it somehow found its way into a mist net in Church Field. Additional records from the Spurn area included singles on 27th August, 22nd and 24th September, followed by one on 27th November.

Inland passage is difficult to detect, so a total of 19 which flew south-west over Stainburn, Wharfedale on 30th August is particularly notable.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus* **A**

2,1,4,7,5

Rare migrant and winter visitor

This species breeds in the arctic and subarctic zones from Scandinavia eastwards through Asia and North America, and winters in small numbers in Britain. Occasional birds occur at regular moorland haunts.

It was an average showing for this Scandinavian visitor, starting with a juvenile still in residence at Millington Pastures from the start of the year until 16th January. The first 'new' discovery related to a single at Barden on 6th January (J&FT).

Perhaps more expected was a juvenile in Sleddale from 12th January, where it was joined by a second juvenile/sub-adult on 17th, with at least one noted regularly until 24th. Presumably the same were then responsible for a series of sightings in the Commondale/Sleddale area until early March (CBI: TF: ECP *et al.*). In Nidderdale a juvenile was over Steelhouse Gill, Colsterdale before flying off towards Coverdale on 22nd February (PVI) and the year's last flew north-west over Flamborough on 7th May (PC *et al.*).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* **A**

Amber list: scarce but regular passage migrant

The north-west European population of this widely distributed species is migratory, wintering in West Africa. Ringing recoveries would suggest that Scandinavian as well as Scottish birds pass through the county.

It was another good year and not all records are listed. There were a number of early arrivals in March, including singles in Upper Wharfedale and over Leeds on 24th, Thrybergh CP on 28th and at both Howden Res and Rother Valley CP on 29th. As expected the number of sightings increased in April and included one at Chelker Res on 6th which caught a 3lb trout.

Singles at Ellerburn Abbey on 20th and 24th April were the first of six spring records in the Scarborough area, with a further two records in autumn, including a single on 11th October that also headed south over Filey, Buckton and Flamborough. Filey had its best year to date, and as well as the aforementioned, there were three migrants in spring and five in autumn. Flamborough recorded additional singles on 7th and 12th September, while Spurn logged two singles in spring and nine bird/days in autumn, including a record five on 28th August.

Further west around Harrogate there were singles in May at Nosterfield NR, Farnham GP and on two dates at Staveley NR; with sightings on single dates at Lingham Lake and Staveley NR in July. In autumn there were two records from Nosterfield NR, a single seen initially at Farnham GP then Walkingham Warren, and further singles at Farnham GP and Staveley NR.

To the south there were a number of records from Barden Scale, with two records in March and April, three records in July and one in August, with additional sightings in the Bradford area of singles at St Ives in March, Chelker Res in April and Oxenhope in May. Also in the south-eastern Dales, singles flew over Embsay, Skipton, Fewston and Timble in August, with two at Thornton Moor in September, subsequently seen in Calderdale. It was also a very good year around Leeds starting with an early migrant at Bower's Lake on 24th March, followed by two records in May and one in June from Swillington Ings, and another over Garforth on 16th June. In the autumn singles were seen at Garforth and Lindley Wood Res on 23rd August and present at Swillington Ings on one date in August and five in September. In contrast, at nearby Fairburn Ings there were only three records during the year, on 4th April, 2nd and 6th September.

There were nine records in the Barnsley area, including a juvenile fledged from Loch Garten that was tracked flying over Midhope Res on 31st August. Otherwise in South Yorkshire, there were a total of 12 records in the Rotherham area, including five in spring, and 16 records from the Sheffield area. A single also lingered on Hatfield Moors from 25th August to 7th September and another stayed at Sprotbrough Flash from 20th September until 1st October.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* A

Amber list: fairly common resident and passage migrant.

BBS 54/211: -11% (-3) 1995-2009, 0% (-29) 2008-09

National and local survey results have shown a steady decline, probably due to agricultural intensification, although there had been some recovery locally since 2002.

Apparently a year of mixed fortune; around Scarborough, breeding records were received from Wykeham Forest (three pairs), Langdale Forest (two pairs) and single pairs in Dalby Forest, at Ravenscar, RAF Fylingdales and North Cliff Golf Course. There were at least four pairs in the Vale of Pickering, but overall, this species was considered to be less common than Sparrowhawk.

Further west, it was a poor year at Malham Tarn and also in Upper Wharfedale, where nine pairs were located in a study area; a total lower than in previous years, although productivity was high, with 34 young fledging. There were fewer reports received of this species around Harrogate compared to Buzzard and Sparrowhawk, whereas the population appears to be stable around Halifax and there was a minimum of six probable and six confirmed pairs in the Huddersfield area. It remains a widespread and common breeder in the Leeds area, with a peak of seven at Swillington Ings in the autumn. However, there were fewer sightings at Pugney's CP than in recent years.

In the Barnsley area, breeding pairs were noted at Winterset, Worsbrough Res, Winscar, Stocksbridge, Goldthorpe (two pairs) and Wilthorpe Marsh. There were also two possible pairs in the Little Don Valley and a maximum of 14 around Old Moor on 9th June.

There was a good spring passage at Flamborough, including maxima of five on 16th March, nine on 1st April and five on 7th May. A total of 25 flew south at Spurn between 23rd April and 30th May, including eight on 22nd May. Only light passage was noted in the autumn, with a best of six at Flamborough on 3rd October. At Spurn 27 were recorded between 16th August and 4th November; that included highs of four on 16th and 29th August.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus* A

0,1,1,6,2

Rare visitor; 70 previous records

Breeds intermittently from the wooded steppes of eastern Europe to the Baikal region and winters in South-West Africa.

Two first-summer males graced the county in late spring/early summer. The first appeared on the north side of Hatfield Moors on 24th/25th May and its appearance coincided with the presence of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper on site (AM *et al.*). The lure of the peatlands' huge invertebrate assemblages was illustrated once again, when nearby Thorne Moors hosted a different individual on 14th June (LJD: RJSp *et al.*).

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* A

Amber list: scarce resident breeder; uncommon passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 7/211

Numbers breeding on the Yorkshire uplands appear to be declining; numbers are augmented during the winter months.

Records of both wintering and breeding pairs seem to be in decline; particularly scarce along the coast during the winter, with only two records in the Scarborough during the first period and only three records during the year at Filey. Flamborough logged 13 bird/days in January/February, eight in March and ten during April, with the last present on 7th May. Spurn experienced a poor year, with ten bird/days in January and February, up to two almost daily during March and April and five singles in May, until the last on 27th.

Away from the coast, there were 15 records from the Hull Valley, while the decline continues in the Halifax area, with only 26 records in total and only recorded from 14 sites around Huddersfield. Singles were present in the Leeds area at Rodley NR on 3rd February, with two records in February and one in March at Swillington Ings. In the second winter period there were records from Swillington Ings on one date in August, one in October and three dates in both November and December. At Fairburn, there were singles on 16th January, 23rd March, 15th May, 26th September and 2nd November, with two present on 21st October. Outside the breeding season recorded at ten sites around Barnsley and ten in the Rotherham area.

Few breeding records were received, but included two pairs at Fylingdales Moor that fledged five young. In total 17 territories were occupied on the North Yorkshire Moors, with 13 pairs successfully fledging 45 young. It was a poor year in Nidderdale, with only three confirmed pairs reported; only one pair fledged five young, but one additional pair probably bred.

Only three pairs were reported from regularly studied areas around Bradford, with no breeding attempts at a formerly very productive moorland site. No nesting pairs were located near Halifax, but two adults and three juveniles appeared at Widdop on 9th August, and a ringed juvenile at Fly Flats the next day, were indicative of local breeding. In the adjacent Huddersfield area, a pair back on territory in early spring had deserted by mid-May. Further south, a territorial pair in Ewden Beck area was the only evidence of breeding behaviour in the Barnsley area; at least one pair was present on moorland west of Sheffield, but it is not known if they were successful.

On the coast, the first returned to Spurn on 25th July, with subsequent records on: five dates in August, eight dates in September and up to two daily during October (with three present on 13th), 15 dates in November and eight dates in December. Flamborough's first post-breeding record related to a single on 26th July; thereafter, there were seven bird/days in August, three in September, five in October and a single was again present on the Headland on 9th and 12th December.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* A

Scarce breeding summer visitor, scarce to uncommon passage migrant. BBS 1/211

It is thought that increasing numbers of this visitor from tropical Africa breed in the county, but its secretive breeding behaviour makes detection difficult. The number of sightings each year increases, but proof of breeding is difficult to obtain.

An early migrant flew north at Ravenscar on 12th April, followed by Barnsley's earliest ever at Old Moor on 17th, and then singles at Hornsea Mere and North Cave Wetlands on 19th, Thorne Moors on 24th and Sammy's Point on 25th April.

Records appeared to be on the increase across the county, with seven reports from the extreme north. It was also another good year in the Harrogate area, with at least 57 sightings from Farnham GP, Staveley NR, Nosterfield NR, Lingham Lake, Hay-a-Park GP, Low Laithe, Fellbeck, Ripon, High Batts NR, Sharow, Great Ouseburn and Greenhow. Within the Bradford recording area there were 11 records from Barden Scale between 24th May and 20th August, including two on 25th July. Near Halifax an adult and first-summer were present at a site from 2nd July until 2nd August.

There was an appreciable increase in breeding records, with a minimum of eight confirmed pairs and a further two probable pairs. At least one pair nested in the Scarborough area, with the possibility that several other pairs may have bred and a pair bred at Grimston, with five juveniles present in August. In the Swillington Ings area there were 58 reports of birds between 3rd May and 4th October; three on 4th July, thought to be

a pair and a juvenile, were indicative of local breeding. There was also the second–ever breeding record in the Barnsley area where a pair fledged two young and three pairs bred in the Rotherham, fledging broods of two, three and two. In addition, at least one pair in the Sheffield area. Two adults were also observed mating at Pulfin & High Eske on 24th/25th May.

Regular on Thorne and Hatfield Moors from late April, with five (two adults and three juveniles) present at the former site on 2nd August. Inland a late single remained at Staveley NR on 29th October.

Along the coast, Filey probably hosted ten individuals, with five in spring, two in mid–summer and three in the autumn. Flamborough logged its first on 18th May, followed by two other records in the month, then singles in July, two dates in August, three days in September and, finally, a single graced the Headland on 17th October. Spurn’s first appeared on 2nd May and up to two subsequently hunted over the Triangle there from late May until mid–July. However, most records related to migrants heading back south with 24 recorded passing through between 6th May and 24th June. During the autumn a total of 14 flew south at Spurn between 26th July and 2nd October; the observatory’s latest ever then headed north over the Warren and Triangle on 5th November.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* **A**
Scarce resident breeder and winter visitor. BBS 2/211

The population is probably slowly increasing. There is a stark contrast in its fortunes regionally, with an increasing number of records from lowland areas, but many traditional upland nesting sites on managed grouse moors are now no longer occupied.

There was a further increase in records, particularly from lowland areas outside the breeding season across the entire county, no doubt a reflection of the resident breeding population.

Confirmed breeding records included two pairs in East Cleveland, with one pair fledging two young and another pair thought to have fledged young. One pair fledged young in the North York Moors, with breeding suspected at one other site. Breeding records from the east included three pairs that successfully fledged a total of seven young in the Scarborough area. Immediately to the south, a pair at Filey failed at the egg stage, the first such breeding failure there for 11 years. The towering cliffs between Flamborough and Speeton held at least three pairs; in addition, a pair successfully fledged young in the Yorkshire Wolds.

In many upland areas there continued to be low levels of site occupancy and poor breeding success in many grouse moor areas. In the Yorkshire Dales only ten out of the 29 sites checked were occupied, and 18 young fledged from seven successful attempts. On a more positive note, after six years of operation, the RSPB and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Peregrine Viewing Project at Malham Cove reached a significant milestone; it welcomed the 100,000th visitor to the viewpoint mid–way through the season, making these the most well–watched birds in the county.

There was mixed success in other upland areas – in the Bradford area, a pair was present at a former breeding site, a juvenile and a food–carrying adult were observed at a probable nest and a juvenile was seen in August near another recently active location. Two pairs bred in the Leeds area; one successful and the second probably so. At least seven pairs attempted to breed in Calderdale, with three pairs successfully fledging three, one and another single young respectively; the other four attempts failed. One pair hatched a single chick from a repeat clutch at a site in the Huddersfield area. Elsewhere adults were present on moorland in the Barnsley area during the breeding season and a pair displayed over North Cave Wetlands on 25th March.

Several pairs were reported from urban areas, with a single pair fledging four young in Keighley and a pair bred in Wakefield city centre. A single at Leeds Town Hall early in the year was presumed to be responsible for the corpses of Woodcock and Little Owl found on the Clock Tower.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* **A**
Scarce resident breeder; uncommon passage migrant/winter visitor

Breeds in swamps and marshes, but more widely distributed across wetland habitats during the winter months. Singles were reported from numerous wetlands during the first winter period, with three at Spurn on 6th January notable. More widespread than usual during the early part of the year around Harrogate, with singles recorded at 11 sites and, late on, there were six at Staveley NR on 13th September and six at Nosterfield Reedbed on 29th December. Other maxima in the first three months included six at Winterset, four on Carlton Marsh and three at Worsbrough Res. However, it was reportedly scarce in the Lower Aire Valley at the start of the year.

In the Barnsley area, there were six breeding territories at Wilthorpe Marsh, with at least one juvenile present in August. A minimum of one pair bred at Edderthorpe Flash; there were two adults with two juveniles on Gypsy Marsh on 2nd June, four calling (including two juveniles) at Carlton Marsh on 25th July, and two juveniles at Wath Ings in early August. A down–covered juvenile was observed at close range on the west bank of Worsbrough

Res on 18th September. Swillington Ings hosted a juvenile on 12th September, with up to three at Fairburn Ings during the breeding season.

Three were ‘singing’ on Thorne Moors during the breeding season, with two on nearby Hatfield Moors. A single pair bred at Potteric Carr, two were calling through the summer at Saltmarshe Delph and two pairs bred in the Lower Derwent Valley; with an additional eight calling adults present there during the breeding season. Elsewhere, present during the summer at Pugney’s CP, Beal Carrs (single calling), Pulfin & High Eske, Tophill Low and Rodley NR, where a juvenile appeared in mid–September.

One on the Canal Scrape at Spurn on 21st July represented an unusual site record.

Higher counts later on included five at Old Moor in October, seven at Worsbrough Res on 17th November and up to 15 at Winterset Res between October and the year–end. Five were recorded at Potteric Carr on 22nd December, six near Skipton on 27th December and six at Nosterfield two days later.

Coastal records included singles at Filey in the Top Scrub on 22nd October and Reighton Ponds on 8th December. One arrived at Flamborough on 26th September, followed by two on 22nd October and three the following day. Up to two were present during the first week of November, with a single on 28th November and two on 4th December. A maximum of three were forced to feed at the seaward end of Danes Dyke South due to freezing weather at the end of the year. Up to four were almost daily at Spurn between 11th September and mid–November, including five on 7th October and 8th November and six on 10th November, from which date a single was noted until the end of December.



Water Rail ●
Ray Scally

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* **A**
Amber list: rare occasional breeder; rare summer visitor and migrant.

This migratory species breeds from Spain eastwards through Europe to central Siberia, with its main breeding strongholds in Eastern Europe and Russia. It is a sporadic breeder in the county, but proof of breeding is difficult to confirm.

It was an excellent year in terms of calling birds, with four passage migrants also recorded. A singing male was at Hatfield Moors on 3rd and 7th May, with another flushed from a ditch at Northcliff, Flamborough on 17th May (PAL). Up to 12 singing males were reported in the Lower Derwent Valley during the breeding season, with three caught and ringed in early June; three were still present at North Duffield Carrs on 27th June.

The 11th/12th records for the Barnsley area were also the first multiple sighting, with an adult at Edderthorpe Flash from 18th August to 23rd September (GJS *et al.*) joined by a juvenile from 19th–21st August (JIM *et al.*). A juvenile at Snaygill Ings, Skipton from 14th until 21st September (RC *et al.*) represented the second site record.

BAILLON'S CRAKE *Porzana pusilla* **A** 0,0,0,0,1
Vagrant; six previous records, the last in 1970

Scattered distribution across Western Europe, but much more widespread beyond the Western Palearctic extending into Asia.

One of the undoubted highlights of the year related to a first–winter/female discovered along the Canal at Spurn at 1700hrs on 7th October (AR *et al.*). The finder was rewarded for diligently counting the Moorhens present when a small crane flew across his line of vision; subsequently, it occasionally showed well until last seen at 1830hrs, but unfortunately, was not present the next day.

Although the seventh county record, this was the first since a male at Fairburn Ings from 6th–13th June 1970, and only the second in the UK over the last decade.

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex* **A** 3,2,4,3,14
Red list and UK BAP species: rare occasional breeder, summer visitor and passage migrant

The vast majority breed in north–west Scotland, especially on the Inner/Outer Hebrides. After a long–term decline, the UK population has doubled over the last five years to 1300 singing males.

A male calling at Waplinton Hall, near Allerthorpe on 6th May represented the first record (PM) and nearby, a female was adjacent to Allerthorpe GP on 28th July (P&SB).

There were a further series of records from the Lower Derwent Valley, starting with one that showed well at Bank Island on 1st June and two singing at Ellerton Ings the following day. Up to four were singing at North Duffield Carrs from 2nd–6th June, with another calling at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd June. Several were then vocal until 16th June, although it then went relatively quiet, with the last calling on 23rd July.

All the autumn records came from the Spurn area, beginning with a single found dead in the car park at Easington Gas Terminal on 17th August (THM) and then another seen on the road at Kilnsea, before disappearing into a ditch, on 16th September (JDi). One came in off the sea and landed in Clubley's Field, Spurn on 10th October and finally, a single appeared briefly at Beacon Ponds on 24th October (JMT).

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* **A**
Common to abundant resident breeder; some immigration in autumn/winter
BBS 45/211: +74% (+16) 1995–2009, +33% (0) 2008–09

Very commonly encountered in areas containing wetland habitats; some northern breeders migrate to western and southern Europe.

Although there was a significant decline at Malham Tarn, possibly as a result of the arrival of Otters, the population elsewhere appears to be doing well and it is considered to be widespread in Upper Wharfedale. A similar picture in the Harrogate area, with peak counts of 40 at Little Studley Meadows on 14th January, 20 at Staveley NR on 3rd March, 29 at Gouthwaite Res on 27th August, 28 at both Farnham GP on 26th October and Nosterfield NR on 12th December.

Peak counts between Skelton Lake and Lowther Lake included a minimum of 72 in January, 132 in September, 109 in October and 96 in December. There were at least 13 breeding pairs at Fairburn Ings and peaks there of 60 during the summer and 98 by early autumn. Other notable counts included 60 at Edderthorpe Flash on 16th September and 37 at Thrybergh CP and 23 at Graves Park in early November. A total of 180 at Old Moor in March was surpassed by a record site tally of 184 on 20th September. Presumed migrants visited Kew Villa, Kilnsea on 13th April and two appeared at the Point on 30th October.

COOT *Fulica atra* **A**
Fairly common resident breeder; some immigration in winter. BBS 16/211

The population of this Palearctic species is probably stable in line with national trends. Numbers in winter are swollen by immigrants from northwest Europe, whilst it breeds in varying numbers on most suitable wetland sites from small ponds to large bodies of water.

There were few breeding records received of interest, with no change in status in the Leeds area; bred at 20 sites, although success rates were highly variable. A minimum of 43 pairs bred at Fairburn Ings and ten pairs bred at North Cave Wetlands; at least 36 pairs bred in the Barnsley area at several sites.

In the east, the best count related to 118 at Seamer Road Mere on 13th January.

Up to 300 were present at Malham Tarn during the last three months, while near Harrogate there were 530 at Farnham GP in January, 338 at Flasks Lake in September and 372 at Lingham Lake in December. In Lower Wharfedale maxima included a best of 174 at Knotford Nook in the first three months and 115 at Otley Wetlands in November.

Non–breeding totals appear to be on the increase in the Leeds area, with over 600 at Swillington Ings on 20th December, constituting the highest count since 1952. Elsewhere, there were 209 at Harewood Park on 20th September.

Notable post–breeding totals near Barnsley related to 127 at Edderthorpe Flash on 13th June, increasing to 235 there on 20th August and 212 still present on 25th October. The maximum count at Winterset Reservoir referred to 540 on 22nd November, with 822 at Old Moor on 20th December the year's largest total.

A largely white, leucistic individual appeared at Potteric Carr on 27th/28th October.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus* **A** 5,41,5,29,30
Amber list: rare breeder and scarce migrant

This species breeds in northern Europe, wintering in Spain and north–west Africa, and migrates north relatively early, with many arrivals in March.

A single that appeared to come in off the sea over Easington and then headed towards Skeffling on 19th February represented the year's first record (MJS).

In April five flew south–west over Blacktoft Sands on 18th (DMP), followed by a single that flew north–west over a garden in Wharncliffe Side, Sheffield on 25th; the fifth Sheffield record (AHi). Subsequently, three then flew north over Thorganby Ings on 28th April.

The number of records increased during May, including a pair over Fairburn Ings and Southfield Res on 16th; presumably the same re–appeared from the east at Southfield Res on 21st May and alighted on Went Ings.

A single landed briefly at Grimston at 1930hrs before heading off south also on 21st May (TI); it then passed over Easington at 2000hrs, before roosting near Beacon Ponds (RJS *et al.*). The following day it flew south from Walker Butts at Spurn at 0515hrs (AAH).

A single flew north near Nosterfield Quarry on 23rd May (JBI), one eventually tracked south over Paull Holme Strays on 26th May (SBr), followed by five that flew south–east over Bawtry the next day. A single headed east over Fairburn Ings and then appeared over Skipwith Common on 29th May, with presumably the same at Wheldrake on 2nd June. Two flew over Clifton Ings on 16th June, with a duo near Goole on 22nd July and finally, two headed east at Sunk Island on 23rd August.

At the regular breeding site, a pair hatched two young, but unfortunately neither fledged; an additional four adults were also briefly present on site during the spring. Elsewhere, two pairs summered in the county.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* **A**
Amber list: scarce resident breeder, fairly common winter visitor/passage migrant. BBS 41/211
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 10200: GB threshold 3200

Nationally there has been a long–term increase in the breeding population following inland colonization, but wintering numbers show a slight decline over the past 10 years.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	246	172	348	173	147	45	127	204	265	86	77	353
South Tees	60	54	38	118	66	6	162	437	599	106	297	200

Present on the outer Humber estuary throughout the year. Peak counts included 192 between Welwick and Easington on 22nd February and 315 on 22nd November, with 115 at Patrington Outstray on 15th March. Further up–river, birds were seen flying west at Faxfleet in August, including 60 on 22nd. Present along the rocky coast from Flamborough northwards throughout the year, with 250 noted at Whitby on 10th January, but rather lower counts than usual noted in the Scarborough area, where high counts included 72 at Black Rocks on 12th January and 82 in Jackson's Bay on 29th August. At Filey, 65 were on the Brigg on January 1st, with the early–year maximum of 123 on 2nd March and 124 on New Year's Eve. Numbers at Flamborough were lower, with 66 on March 1st the highest count outside the August passage.

This species breeds quite widely in the county, both on the uplands and at suitable lowland wetlands and pits, and only selected records are included here. In Upper Wharfedale and the Harrogate areas it is a familiar breeding bird, with double-figure numbers arriving in February before dispersing to breed: 83 were at Ripon Racecourse/Nicholson’s Lagoon and 82 at Nosterfield NR in February, and 86 at Gouthwaite Res, 75 at Grimwith, 75 at Thruscross, 45 near Bolton Abbey, and 40 at both Otley and Mossy Moor, all in March. Five pairs bred at Nosterfield NR, five attempted at Gouthwaite, four at Farnham and three at Nosterfield Quarry. Breeding was recorded at Sleddale on the North Yorkshire Moors, Wykeham Lake hosted two or three pairs and three chicks were seen at Harwood Dale Lake on 25th May. Two pairs failed at Spurn. In the Hull Valley area, pairs were seen at Brigham Quarry, Tophill Low and Watton, although the only confirmed breeding was at Pulfin & High Eske. Two pairs bred at North Cave Wetlands raising five young and a pair also bred at Pocklington Industrial estate. In the Barnsley area, three pairs were present at Wintersett, a pair at Wilthorpe Marsh, at least one pair at Broomhill Flash, a pair at Winscar Res, and it probably bred at Scout Dike/Royd Moor and Lower Windleden Res. A colour-ringed bird present at Wintersett from 5th April to 31st May and also seen on Broomhill Flash on 11th April and at Dewsbury SF on 1st August, had been ringed as an adult at Hythe, Southampton Water, Hampshire on 31st August 2008. Peak counts at inland sites including 22 at North Cave Wetlands in February, 15 at Wintersett on 10th May and 13 at Old Moor in May and June. Post-breeding numbers soon returned to Gouthwaite Res, where 84 gathered in July.

Coastal passage was observed from 9th July at Scarborough and continued to late September. A total of 234 were logged flying south at Long Nab in the autumn and 124 were present on New Year’s Eve. At Filey, 124 were logged on 24th July, with 169 in the high-tide roost on 4th September. A strong passage was noted at Flamborough in August, with 271 on 17th the peak count. At Barmston, 30 flew south on 14th September and 60 were present in December. At Spurn, 6273 flew south between 19th June and 20th November, peaking in mid July with 538 on 26th; the August maximum related to 1170 on 17th, and September’s 221 heading south on 4th. Unusually, 65 came in off the sea on 2nd November.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* **A**
Amber list: scarce resident breeder; uncommon visitor
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 730: GB threshold 35

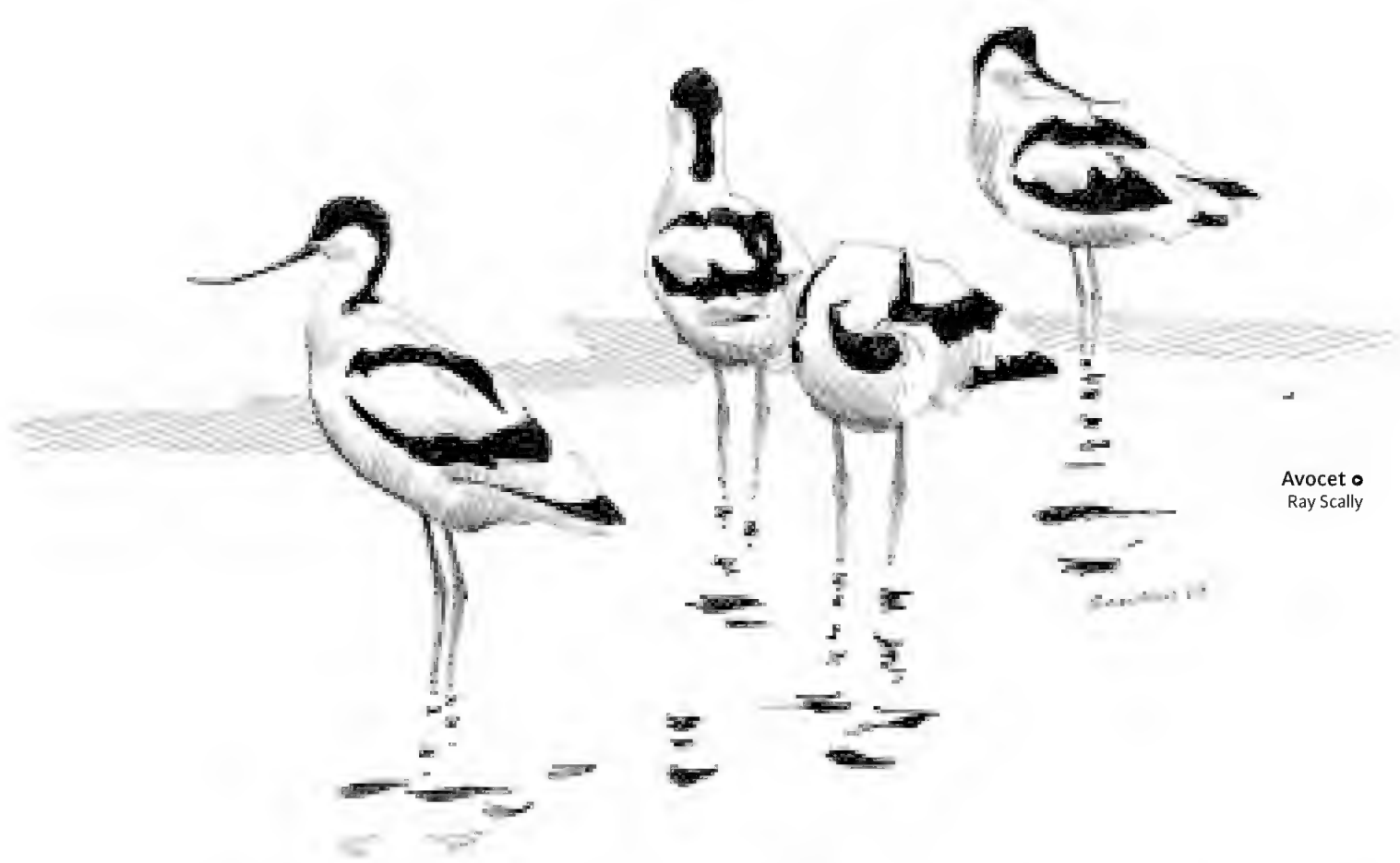
It is increasingly spreading from established colonies along the coast in the south-east of the UK, including establishing small populations at several inland locations.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	0	0	29	211	204	61	8	60	1	4	0	0

The largest breeding colony is now on Whitton Sands, where 255 adults and 11 chicks were present on 21st June, with 122 birds sitting. Two adults and four chicks were on Broomfleet foreshore on that date. Birds returned to Blacktoft Sands on 3rd March, with 20 there later that month, 120 in April and 80 in May. Nesting attempts occurred in May, with four fledged young reported on 17th. Birds arrived at North Cave Wetlands on 14th March, with 34 the peak count in April and 12 birds were sitting. From 21 chicks seen on 29th May, only four survived to fledge. Six birds were at Swillington Ings on 1st April, with breeding activity evident from 4th and four adults sitting by 16th May. Three pairs hatched chicks (broods of four, four and one), but appeared to lose them trapped in algal blooms and only one pair managed to fledge two chicks, that departed on 8th August. Two had returned to Nosterfield NR by 16th March, increasing to four obvious pairs by 10th April, three of which attempted to breed. One nest failed, but two pairs had broods of three and two by 19th May. One young from each brood survived, although an adult was lost, and remained to 19th July. Four pairs raised three young at Potteric Carr.

Present at various locations on the Humber north bank, including Paull Holme Strays on 21st March, with a peak there of 17 on 5th August, Saltend Hull in April, Brough Haven in June, including 11 there on 29th, and Stone Creek where 15 were noted on 7th September. At Spurn, the first flew south on 14th March, followed by two on 20th and one in from the east on 30th. Two flew south at Spurn and two more were on the Humber there on 25th April and in May, two flew south on 17th, 22nd and 27th, and a single on 25th, with two present at Beacon Ponds on 19th and 31st, and also on 21st June. A single was at Chalk Bank on 30th August, and the last of the year was also there on 28th October.

A series of inland records began in March when one was at Potteric Carr on 19th, two on 23rd, with 11 there from 2nd–4th April and six on 15th. Two were also at Wheldrake Ings on 22nd and 23rd, and again on 4th, 11th



and 13th April. In April pairs wandered quite widely and records included: two at Great Heck and two at Hatfield Moors on 2nd, (also one on 15th and 23rd at the latter site), two at Bawtry Carr on 3rd, two north-west at Thrybergh CP on 7th, two at Old Moor/Broomhill Flash on 7th and Old Moor on 8th and 10th, with one there on 19th. Two visited Wheldrake on 11th April, two flew north-west at Rother Valley CP on 19th, two were at Fairburn Ings on 22nd and 30th and two were at Southfield Res on 28th. In May, two were on Hatfield Moors again on 2nd and also on Thorne Moors on the same date, two appeared at Wintersett on 8th (one colour-ringed) and one flew east at Southfield Res on 14th. One was at Great Heck on 21st, two on 16th and 17th June and three on 28th. The numbers at Fairburn Ings grew in May, with nine present on 12th, but the average for the month was four, with two birds regularly in early June and the last appeared on 15th. Later in the year, one dropped in at Old Moor on 25th August, with probably the same juvenile at Wilthorpe Marsh on 26th/27th, representing the latest ever Barnsley record. A month later, one was at Lingham Lake on 27th September and later still, another visited Eccup Res on 11th October.

COLLARED PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola* **A** 0,0,0,0,2
Vagrant; first in the county since 1996

Breeds in Iberia and from north-west Africa eastwards to Kazakhstan; winters in Africa south of the Sahara. An adult remained at Swillington Ings from mid-afternoon on 23rd May to mid-morning on May 25th (REL: MKT *et al.*); together with the three Whiskered Terns that arrived on 24th, it ensured Swillington grabbed the national headlines.

Without firm evidence to the contrary, what is presumed to be a second individual then graced Pulfin and High Eske NR on the evening of 20th July (DGH *et al.*). It was there the following day and then intermittently on site the next day until relocating to Tophill Low on 24th; finally departing during the early evening of 25th. However, the same individual was again relocated at nearby Leconfield, where it spent 3rd/4th August on a grassy area near the Defence School and was photographed (PCI).

These represent the first county records since one flew through Muston, Filey and then spent several hours over Hornsea Mere in June 1996; now with seven records, Yorkshire is the best county in the UK for this species.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* **A**
Scarce breeding summer visitor; uncommon passage migrant/summer visitor

A summer visitor from Africa, which is widespread across Europe. First bred in Britain at Tring in 1938. A single at Wombwell Ings on 3rd March was the earliest site record and numbers increased there to 11 by 30th, with two at Dearne Valley RSPB on 5th the year’s second record. In East Yorkshire, the first at Tophill Low NR was on 16th March, followed by two at Swine Moor on 17th and one at Hornsea Mere from 20th. Peak spring numbers were 19 at Old Moor on 18th May, nine at North Duffield Carrs on 15th April, nine at Gouthwaite Res in May, seven at Swine Moor, five at Hatfield Moors, five at Pulfin & High Eske, four at Brough Airfield Marsh

and two at Tophill Low and Watton NR. Further north up the coast, one was at Binnington Carr on 29th March, one at Cayton Carr on 30th, followed by three at Filey on 1st and singles at Wykeham Lakes on 2nd April. The first at Spurn was late, not appearing until 22nd May.

Breeding attempts were recorded by single pairs unless stated otherwise: at Allerthorpe Lakeland Park, Amtree Park, Filey (four displaying), Broomhill Flash (one pair), Carlecotes Pond (two pairs: four juveniles), Carriageworks near York, Cudworth Common Wetlands, Dewsbury SF (two fledged), Edderthorpe Flash (four failed pairs), Farnham GP (failed), Grassington, Hatfield Moors (two pairs: three and four young), Isle of Skye Quarry (two pairs), Menston (two pairs: four juveniles ringed), North Cave Wetlands (two fledged), Nosterfield NR (four pairs: one brood fledged, but failed), Nosterfield Quarry (three pairs: one successful), Orgreave NR (one juvenile), Pocklington Industrial Estate (three young), Potteric Carr, Pugney’s CP (two pairs, one successful), Redmires Res (one pair: one fledged), Ringstone Edge, Ripon City Quarry, Ripon Parks, Scaling Dam Res (four young raised), Scout Dike Res (failed), Seamer Business Park (three pairs), Skipton SW (one fledged), Swillington Ings (four pairs), Washburn (two pairs: single juveniles ringed at each site), Wilthorpe Marsh, Whiteholme, Winscar Res (two pairs, one successful), Winterset (probably two pairs, one pair failed, one young fledged) and Wykeham Lake (three pairs).

Breeding was strongly suspected at Bewholme (three juveniles on 13th July), Pulfin & High Eske (three juveniles on 8th July). Pairs in the breeding season were also noted displaying at Beal Carrs and Thorp Park, and elsewhere at Aldwarke SF, Pit House West, Silverwood, Swine Moor Common, Thrybergh and Ulley CPs. Single juveniles were present at Northcliff Marsh, Flamborough on 29th and 30th June, 5th July and 24th August. Four were reported from Thorpe Marsh and the nearby power station tip in the breeding season, 15 birds at Potteric Carr on 19th June, included seven juveniles, and an adult and juvenile were present on Thorne Moors on 30th June.

Post–breeding July records included one at Malham Tarn on 5th, a single at Wykeham Lakes, 19 at Old Moor on 8th, a juvenile at Beacon Ponds on 25th and a peak count of ten at Filey Dams on 29th. August records included 11 at Old Moor on 6th, two south at Spurn on 8th and a single south on 16th, singles at Beacon Ponds on 14th and 21st and at Filey Dams on 22nd. September records included singles at Wombwell Ings on 2nd, Broomhill Flash on 3rd, Tophill Low on 4th and Edderthorpe Flash on 6th.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* **A**
Amber list: scarce resident breeder; fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 730: GB threshold 330 winter, 300 passage

The wintering population had been declining, hence Amber status, but now appears to be stable. Small numbers winter on the estuaries, with spring migration of birds that breed further north usually peaking in mid to late May, and birds returning in August. Breeds in very small numbers both on the coast and inland.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	12	13	9	19	146	35	6	978	62	6	0	4
South Tees	4	0	0	0	30	4	45	52	4	0	0	0

Ten pairs attempted to breed at Spurn, but no young were seen, probably due to predation by foxes and crows and human disturbance. Three pairs attempted at North Cave Wetlands, with one successful. Breeding records also came from: Cudworth Common Wetlands, where three pairs were present on 24th April, two of which eventually bred and raised five young between them; Aldwarke SF (pair and two juveniles); Broomhill Flash (pair and one young); Calder Wetlands (two pairs, one successful); Potteric Carr (two fledged young); Rawmarsh (pair sitting). Pairs were also present in the breeding season at Parkgate and Redmires Res. In Upper Wharfedale, the stronghold is Grimwith Res, where perhaps three pairs bred, with two juveniles noted later on. There were six breeding attempts at Nosterfield NR, involving four pairs, and five young fledged. Two pairs attempted to breed at Nosterfield Quarry, but failed at the egg stage.

Present on the Humber in small numbers throughout the year, although scarce in the mid–winter months. The counts of 53 at Spurn on 18th January and 28 at North Ferriby on 26th were very good for the time of year. Paull Holme Strays hosted 350 on 16th April and 150 on 5th September. Passage was noted through Stone Creek in June, with 205 on 1st and 140 on 2nd. Present almost throughout the year on Filey Brigg and Flamborough Head in small numbers. First half–year counts on the coast included 19 at Flamborough in January, 27 in the Jackson’s Bay/Scalby Mills area on 21st January, 27 on 6th February, and ten on 8th May and five at Scalby Lodge Pond on 23rd May.

Sites in East Yorkshire where recorded included Hornsea Mere, Pulfin & High Eske, Tophill Low NR (five on 9th August), with singles at Swine Moor Common in May and Bewholme in August. Further inland, 18 were at Wheldrake on 10th May. Small groups or singles were noted at a number of sites in South and West Yorkshire between January and October. Up to four were at Old Moor in February, ten on 17th March and 60 on 15th May. Counts on Hatfield Moors included five on 5th April, but there were many high counts in May, including an impressive 115 there on 15th and 100 on 22nd. Peak counts elsewhere included eight at Winterset Res on 8th May, 39 through Nosterfield on 9th May and 31 on 9th June, nine at Thornton Moor Res on 9th May, 26 at Swillington Ings on 10th May and again on 6th June, 22 at Potteric Carr on 14th May, 20 at Edderthorpe Flash on 15th May and four at Fairburn Ings in late September. There were regular passage and fly over sightings at Southfield Res of up to four on a number of dates. Up to a maximum of three were also noted at Beal Carrs, Deer Hill, Dewsbury SF, Edderthorpe Flash, Ferry Moor, Ingbirchworth Res, Royd Moor Res, Scout Dike Res, Skipton SW, Thorpe Marsh, Wilthorpe Marsh, Winscar Res and Winterset Res. In the Halifax area, recorded from Green Withens, Ringstone Edge Res, Saddleworth Road Quarry, Soil Hill, and in particular from Whiteholme, where recorded between 30th April and 8th September, with a good August passage that included ten on 27th. Singles were recorded at Malham Tarn on 15th May and 5th July.

Spring passage of *tundrae* birds in May was lower than usual at Spurn, but went largely unrecorded on the Humber. Five were at Old Moor on 6th May, and singles were observed at Pulfin & High Eske between 15th and 17th May and again on 30th. There was a strong passage in the Nosterfield area, with ten at Nosterfield NR on both 10th and 25th May, 17 at Lingham Lake on 23rd/24th May and 27th, plus 11 on 25th, and finally 13 on 30th May. In autumn, one was reported from Hornsea Mere on 28th September.

Coastal passage from the end of July included 71 south and 13 on the Brigg on 23rd August, 24 at Jackson’s Bay on 24th and a particularly large count of 410 at South Gare on 25th. At Flamborough, the bulk moved through in August, totalling 154 bird/days that included 34 on 22nd and 37 on 23rd, with 82 bird/days in September. Autumn passage at Spurn was very good, a total of 562 recorded flying south and 18 in off the sea between 15th July and 2nd October. High counts included 153 on 17th, 85 on 22nd and 77 on 29th August.

Inland, there were again large numbers on Hatfield Moors, with bests of 110 on 12th, 120 on 17th and 136 on 27th August.

Late year counts included 26 in Jackson’s Bay on 10th November and again on 15th December, with 29 at Flamborough on 23rd and four at Barmston on 26th December.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* **A** 33,69,22,37,39
Amber list: scarce passage migrant, more frequent in spring; rarely has bred

This species is a regular passage migrant, usually during May, on route to breeding grounds in Scotland and Scandinavia. Favoured sites include high ground in the Pennines and pea–fields in the east of the county.

Most birds pass through in May, and the first singles appeared at Great Whernside and East Newton on 7th. Five were found with Golden Plover in a field west of Blackmoorfoot Res on 8th/9th May (MLD *et al.*) and two females showed very well in the horse paddocks at Sammy’s Point on 9th before flying off south towards Lincolnshire (TMc *et al.*). Five were found on Ingleborough on 10th/11th, two were feeding on a freshly burnt area by the “tank track” at Jugger Howe Moor on 13th (GSI), one appeared briefly near Old Fall, Flamborough (PAL) and seven (two females and five males) lingered on Beacon Hill, Flamborough on 16th May (CCT *et al.*). Six remained at the regular staging site on Danby Beacon from 18th–20th, with one there on 26th. A further two were on the track near Lilla Cross, Fylingdales Moor on 5th June (BA–W).

In autumn, two flew south past the Fog Station at Flamborough on 14th August (PAL), one was on Hatfield Moors from 25th August to 3rd September (CCR: TR *et al.*), two juveniles flew east at Stone Creek on 31st August (JW) and a juvenile was at Axle Lane, South Anston on 30th September (MCI).

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* **A** 0,1,1,0,1
Vagrant: 24 previous records (25 birds)

Breeds in North America and winters from Central America south to Argentina.

A juvenile was found amongst a flock of 5000 Golden Plovers on the Main Marsh at Old Moor on 27th October; it was photographed during a two–hour stay, before being flushed by a Peregrine at 1215hrs and wasn’t seen again (DR *et al.*). This record draws parallel with another juvenile at Old Moor as recently as October 2006.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* **A**
Amber list: uncommon moorland breeder; common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 27/211
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 9300: GB threshold 2500

Breeding numbers are still thought to be contracting, but nationally, wintering numbers have been increasing. The Humber estuary is the most important UK wintering site, with peak counts over 47,000, with most birds of Fennoscandian or Russian origin.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	25,281	26,580	4522	1411	61	0	1453	2884	5459	865	1380	2705

Present almost daily on the Humber from January to mid-April, then became increasingly scarce, with some birds seen leaving to the east, the last at Spurn being on 17th May. In the first winter and early spring, counts included: January – 2000 at Axle Lane, 400 at Wilfholme on 1st, 150 at Welton Waters on 8th, 313 at Whitby and 150 at Wilton Ings on 10th, 1050 at Old Moor on 13th, 200 near Silpho on 18th, 9100 at Skeffling and 3912 at Patrington Outstray on 18th, 400 at Terrington on 24th, 800 at Sunk Island and 850 at Potteric Carr on 26th and 300 at Elvington on 30th. In February – 800 at Old Moor on 2nd/3rd, 1000 flying south-west at Chapelton on 3rd, 200 at Cottingham on 7th, 70 at Wykeham Carr on 14th, 600 at Binnington Carr on 21st, 14,500 at Skeffling, 11,695 between Paull and Stone Creek and 3000 at Spurn all on 22nd, 230 at Howe Bridge, Ryedale also on 22nd, 102 in off at Spurn on 28th and 500 at Pugney’s in February/March. In addition, 417 were at Cottingwith on 3rd March.

When birds started to move away towards their breeding sites, inland counts understandably increased: Barden held 500 and Sandwith Moor a further 300 in early March, Dimmingdale held flocks of 430 on 10th March and 196 on 16th April, 600 were at Thruscross in Upper Wharfedale on 28th March, 1000 were at Scargill Res and 250 in Goole Fields on 31st March, 500 at Staveley on 1st April, 1000 were at Swine Moor on 2nd April and 700 on 16th, and 746 were at Peat Pits on 24th. In May, 400 were on Dallowgill Moor on 9th. Eccup Moor again held the only regular flock in the Leeds area, with up to 220 in spring, many of these the brightly coloured ‘Northern’ birds *P.a.altifrons*, and 350 again in autumn. A flock of 50 in the Malham area at Dalehead in March and April were also showing the characteristics of the Northern race *altifrons*, as were 50 near Upper Marsh in the Bradford district. The last spring bird at Broomhill Flash was on 13th May, as birds had deserted the lowlands by this date.

Pairs were thinly distributed on high ground during the breeding season. Signs of breeding in the north included between three to six individuals in the Dimmingdale area during May and June. A pair with chicks was giving distraction display on Fylingdales Moor on 9th June. Twelve near the Lion Inn, Rosedale on 2nd July may have been local breeders and up to five were also recorded from Harland Moor, Rosedale Sheriff’s Pit and Sledge Stone, Hawaby, Hambleton Street, Rosedale Chimney Bank, Old Malton and Golden Heights in the Ryedale district. In the Barnsley area, breeding behaviour began as early as 1st March, with ten at Midhope. A single displayed in the Little Don Valley on 29th March and eight territorial birds were present along Howden Edge on Langsett Moor on 14th April. Four pairs were in the Flint Hill area on 31st May, a single was singing on Snailsden Moss on 1st June and a pair was on Stone Rucks Moss on Long Moor on 8th June. A pair with a small chick was on Strines Moor on 19th May and a pair with a fledged juvenile on Broomhead Moor on 28th June. Singing or distraction display was also noted at Brogging Moss, Barnside Moor, Cloudbury, Digley, Featherbed, Harden Moss, Hingcliff, Redmires Res, Stone Rucks Moss and Thurlstone Moor. In the Halifax area, singing or displaying birds were noted at Cold Edge Road, Stansfield Moor, Fly Flats, Great Manshead Hill, and seven pairs were counted at High Brow Knoll on 4th June. In Upper Wharfedale, breeding was proven on Beamsley Beacon, Birk’s Fell and Rombald’s Moor, and in the Harrogate district, four pairs with young were recorded on Dallowgill Moor.



Golden Plover •
Ray Scally

The first returning bird at Spurn appeared in mid-June. At Old Moor the first were five over on 8th July. Numbers built up on the Humber through July, and by 31st July, 1000 were at Stone Creek and 2000 at Paull Holme Strays, with 3500 there on 18th August, 3750 at Skeffling and 1614 at Patrington Outstray both on 10th September, 3300 at Sunk Island and 4000 at Paull on 10th October, 6700 at Sunk Island on 31st October, 10,000 at Paull on 7th November and 5000 still present on 20th December. Numbers also built up quickly in the upper Humber where 1200 were recorded at Cliffe/Newhay, near Selby, on 28th September, 4000 at Beechwood on 13th October and 5000 were present at Whitton Sands on 4th December. Autumn passage at Spurn saw 509 fly south and 180 come in off the sea between 15th July and 7th December, with 300 south on 3rd December the best. At Long Nab, coastal passage took place from 17th July until early-November. A flock of 300 were in fields at Speeton on 27th September. At Filey, 40 came in-off on 30th October, the same date that 200 flew south over Scalby Lodge and 310 were noted at Flamborough the same day.

Post-breeding flocks were still present on high ground in September and October: 500 were at Farnham GP in September and 1200 on Stainburn Moor/Sandwith Moor was notable on 26th October. Late winter counts away from the Humber included in October – 5000 at Old Moor on 27th, 3000 at Edderthorpe Flash, 3000 on Watton Carrs on 29th, 1850 at Nosterfield NR, 1000 at Potteric Carr and 450 at Eccup. In November – 4000 stayed at Old Moor on 1st-4th, 1200 were at Thorganby Ings on 5th, 3800 at Bubwith Ings on 13th, 3000 remained at Edderthorpe Flash, 1200 assembled at Charm Park, Wykeham on 22nd, 500 at Chelker Res, 488 between Redcar and Marske on 27th, 450 at Ringstone Edge and finally, 400 in the Worsbrough Valley on 26th. In December, flocks included 3000 at Potteric Carr, 2500 at Lingham Lake, 500 at Staveley, 400 on Hatfield Moors, 400 at Ulley CP and 60 at Cromer Point on 19th, the latter pushed to the coast by inland snow. An unusual sighting was of a single sat on rocks on Marine Drive, Scarborough, on 23rd December, another cold weather effect.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* A

Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 2500: GB threshold 530

A visitor from breeding grounds in the high Arctic, this globally widespread species winters on the outer Humber, with passage noted in April and May, and again in September. Counts on the Humber regularly exceed the GB threshold. The national trend is, however, declining.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	1234	1215	1198	1308	3504	26	37	715	1136	31	574	1366
South Tees	44	0	58	0	0	0	0	0	70	63	0	0

Present on the Humber throughout the year, although only smaller numbers were present in June. It was more common on the outer estuary, counts included: 1035 at Skeffling and 400 at Spurn on 22nd February, 601 at Patrington Outstray on 15th March, 2250 at Patrington Outstray on 29th April, 810 at Skeffling and 1550 at Outstray on 10th May and 1000 at Stone Creek on 16th, 715 at Skeffling on 13th June. In the latter half, there were 760 at Skeffling and 400 at Outstray on 22nd November and 606 there on 6th December. Further inland, peak counts at Paull Holme Strays related to 50 on 25th April and 44 on 10th August.

Small numbers were noted in the Scarborough and Filey areas in winter and on passage, with both South and Jackson’s Bays providing favourable feeding conditions. A count of 18 heading south at Filey Brigg on 1st February was noteworthy. Ten were noted at Barmston on 7th March and eight were present there on 28th December.

Inland records in the first half-year included a single at Old Moor on 26th March, singles at Potteric Carr on 12th April, Hatfield Moors on 18th April and 12th, 24th and 30th May. Additional May records included singles at Swillington Ings on 13th, Edderthorpe Flash and Winterset Res on 14th and two each at Hatfield Moors on 14th, Old Moor on 15th and Swillington on 31st.

Spring passage relating to birds heading east was very noticeable at Spurn in the spring, with 904 logged between 15th and 29th May, including highs of 408 on 26th and 410 on 28th May. Spurn also recorded a good autumn passage: 505 flew south and 63 came in off the sea, with maxima of 104 on 17th July, 157 on 20th and 144 on 22nd August.

Records elsewhere in the second half of the year included: singles at Southfield Res on 23rd July, 4th August and 15th October, and on Hatfield Moors on 5th, 7th, 12th and 18th August, with three over on 21st, one on 4th September and six on 26th. Further August records included one that flew north over Thruscross on 16th, one at Thornton Moor Res on 21st, a single at Whiteholme on 22nd, one at Nosterfield NR on 29th and seven flew over Thorne Moors on 30th. Two were at Dewsbury SF on 11th September. Singles also appeared at Old Moor on 3rd September, over Nosterfield NR on 12th September and Winterset CP on 10th October, at Old Moor from 20th-23rd October and at Potteric Carr on 22nd. Finally, singles appeared at Old Moor and Lingham Lake on 1st November.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding resident; common passage migrant/winter visitor
BBS 118/211: +37% (+2) 1995–2009, –19% (–13) 2008–09
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 20000: GB threshold 20000
UK residents are joined in winter by migrants from Scandinavia and northern Europe. There has been a long-term national decline in the breeding population, but BBS data suggests some increase in England since 1994, and the Yorkshire data supports this. 2009 was, however, a poor year and numbers were generally down.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	4375	4178	374	92	6	57	441	215	96	82	1675	1530
South Tees	0	54	113	2	4	0	0	23	47	6	109	0

Large winter counts can occur in the upland valleys and lowland sites, as continental birds replace local breeding birds, which tend to move south. Significant January counts included: 1907 at Old Moor, 1000 at Skipton SW, 1000 at Sunk Island, 973 at Lingham Lake, 947 at Patrington Outstray, 800 at Denton Moor, 683 at Nosterfield NR, 631 at Scaling Dam, 600 at Swillington Ings, 525 at Edderthorpe Flash, 500 at Allerton Park, 500 at Eccup Res, 500 near Yeadon Airport, 400 at Dearne Valley RSPB, Otley Wetlands and Star Carr, 350 at Sands Lane GP, 250 at Wilton Ings, 200 at Pugney’s CP and 150 in the Filey area. In February – 1800 were at Old Moor, 1629 between Paull and Stone Creek, 350 at Winterset CP, 300 at Potter Brompton Carr and 210 at Kilnsea. In March, 1200 at Old Moor on 1st declined to 200 by the end of the month. A count of 200 at Pugney’s CP compared unfavourably with up to 3000 present there 30 years ago.

Movements in the first half of the year included a light passage at Spurn: 196 flew south, 52 flew out east, and four came in off the sea.

Breeding in the north-east of the county was confirmed from Upleatham, where six pairs were present, RAF Fylingdales (eight pairs) and Hertford Dale (eight pairs). The Carrs west of Scarborough are a stronghold, with 15 pairs at Wykeham Ings, 15 pairs at Grove Farm on Cayton Carr, five at Brompton Ings, two Flotmanby Carr, three at Willerby Carr and 14 at Green Lane near Thornton-le-Dale. At Flamborough, up to 17 pairs bred, consolidating the population increase attributed to the Environmental Stewardship Schemes. In the Hull Valley area, there were eight territories in the Kelk area and up to 13 pairs fledged young on Swine Moor Common. At least 20 pairs bred at North Cave Wetlands, raising 40 young. In the Barnsley area, breeding success appeared limited: for instance, of 13 pairs at Winterset, none appeared successful; 16 pairs at Edderthorpe produced only seven broods, with little fledging success, and ten pairs were at Wilthorpe Marsh, but at least four clutches were predated. Breeding attempts at Pugney’s were much fewer than before, again with poor results. Perhaps more successful were 12 pairs at Broomhill Flash, 15 pairs with chicks were seen at Flight Hill, Harden, 14 pairs were present at Carlecotes, and several juveniles were seen on Langsett Moor. Swillington Ings reported a good breeding season. Displaying males on the moors included six at Low Moor in Upper Midhope and 23 on Stone Moor. In the Rotherham area, breeding activity noted at a number of lowland and upland sites, with 30 birds at both Brampton and Silverwood Lagoons. Southfield Res/Went Ings hosted ten pairs. This species breeds widely in Upper Wharfedale, where the decline appears less than that recorded from lowland areas, and it also breeds extensively in the Harrogate district, where results from high ground were positive. However, at Nosterfield NR, 58 pairs nested, although only a third appeared successful.

Post-breeding flocks started forming in late June; 300 were at Winterset and 370 at Kelk on 26th July, 333 at Pulfin & High Eske on 28th and 700 at Old Moor on 31st. In August, 400 were near Beal Carrs on 12th, 400 appeared on Thorne Moors, 1000 were counted at Old Moor towards the month-end, with 3000 there on 5th September. Also in September, 2500 were at Lingham Lake, 700 visited Thorne Moors, 425 were at Pulfin & High Eske, 390 at Horbury Wyke and 300 on Hatfield Moors. Records from the VisMig site at Stainburn in Upper Wharfedale gave an interesting picture of how numbers developed from the late summer: flocks of 500 to 600 were recorded during September and October, but with good passage also recorded, especially during October, with a peak of 890 heading west-south-west on 7th November.

Birds started re-appearing on the coast in June, with 200 at Filey by 13th July. Small numbers were occasionally observed moving on seawatches in October and November, with 500 heading south over Scalby Lodge in one hour on 31st October being exceptional. At Spurn, 480 flew south and 863 came in off the sea between 14th June and 23rd December, which included 460 in off the sea on 31st October; 108 south on 2nd November; and 187 in on 3rd December. A flock of 1000 flew south at Grimston on 3rd December.

Counts in the second winter period included: October – 1840 at Old Moor, 450 at Watton NR, 330 at Rother Valley CP, 274 at Filey, 240 at Scout Dike Res, 230 at Ringstone Edge. In November there were – 2300 at Bubwith Ings, 900 at Thorganby Ings, 600 at Rother Valley CP, 520 at Ringstone Edge, 450 at Pulfin & High Eske, 400 at Welton, 350 at Broadstones Res, 300 at Brough Airfield Marsh, 300 at Charm Park, 300 at Naburn SW, 130 at Kilnsea and 112 at Flamborough. In December – 13,000 were at Whitton Sands (on 5th), 2500 at Lingham Lake, 2500 at Nosterfield NR, 1800 at Allerston Loft Marishes and 900 at Low Marishes (both near Scarborough), 1500 at Cononley Ings and Potteric Carr, 1200 at North Duffield Carrs, 850 at North Cave Wetlands, 500 at Edderthorpe Flash and 500 at Fairburn Ings. Inland flocks were either driven south or to the coast as freezing conditions set in towards the end of the year; 500 were in coastal fields at Marske and 350 at Scalby Mills during this period.

KNOT *Calidris canutus* **A**
Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 4500: GB threshold 2800
The Humber was the fourth most important UK wintering site for this species. Birds are almost exclusively of the race *islandica* that breed in northern Greenland and high Arctic Canada. The population is thought to be stable.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	13372	12860	15800	2595	182	64	2100	971	1350	410	2550	3450
South Tees	4	200	0	0	0	0	8	22	0	160	20	302

Present on the Humber throughout the year. Notable counts from the sector between Welwick and Easington included 12,750 on 18th January, 12,500 in February and March, and 25,000 on 6th December. Further up the estuary the peak counts at Stone Creek were 4500 on 20th February, 3600 on 15th November and 7000 on 18th December. Larger than normal numbers were wintering in South Bay, Scarborough in the first winter period; 37 on 1st January increased to 59 by 12th January, with up to 28 seen in March. At Filey numbers were low, but peaked at 92 on 16th February.

Passage at Spurn in the spring saw 50 head out east on 4th April, 18 on 21st May and five on 30th May. Inland passage included one at St Aidan’s on 14th March and one there on 7th May, two at Old Moor on 27th April and one north there on 15th May, one at Hatfield Moors the next day, one at Potteric Carr from 17th–19th and three at Orgreave Lake on 22nd May.

Return passage in the Scarborough area started on 17th July, when 39 flew south at Long Nab, with counts of 20 south on 26th July and 14th August, and 35 on 27th July. The total autumn passage count at Filey was just 151 birds. At Flamborough, 65 bird/days were noted in July with 38 on 15th, and 179 bird/days in August, the peak count being 22, which by coincidence was the same count at Barmston on 22nd August. At Spurn, in addition to the birds on the Humber, 3900 flew south and 176 came in off the sea between 6th July and 20th December, with highs of 729 on 15th and 560 on 23rd July; 103 on 28th August; and 331 on 31st October. Inland, singles were at Lingham Lake on 12th and 15th July, with another at Nosterfield NR on 18th. One was at Old Moor from 15th–17th July, a single appeared at Rother Valley CP on 15th October and two visited Fairburn Ings and Southfield Res the same day; finally, singles flew over Southfield Res on 27th October and 30th December and another at Lingham Lake on 14th December.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* **A**
Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1200: GB threshold 210 winter, 300 passage
Breeds on the high Arctic tundra from Canada east to Siberia, and Palearctic birds winter south to Africa. The national numbers are stable or increasing slightly, but noted as becoming increasingly scarce in the Scarborough area.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	0	0	0	28	54	78	0	558	0	0	0	0
South Tees	34	0	66	40	350	45	75	50	0	29	134	32

Significant winter coastal counts included 35 at Flamborough on 13th January, 170 at South Gare during February, 55 at Filey on 4th March and in the latter half 100 at Redcar during November and 130 at Barmston on 28th December. The largest numbers recorded in the Spurn area, where present on the Humber or beach shores throughout the year; numbers peaked during passage from late March to late May. An impressive 530 were on the beach between Sandy Beaches and Easington boat yard on 7th March. However, the record for Spurn was broken on 1st May, when 930 roosted at Chalk Bank. Other high counts in May included 580 on 16th and 660 on 24th. The only visible passage in the spring was of nine heading out east on 23rd May. Passage also included 280 on the beach at Redcar on 24th May. Numbers in the Scarborough area were low, with just three noted, and lower than usual numbers were also reported from Filey, and only one appeared at Flamborough on 23rd May.

Further up the Humber it became scarce, so 290 counted at Stone Creek on 1st June was unusual. A single at Paull Holme Strays on 19th July represented the only record from that site. One was on Thorne Moors on the unusual date of 11th January. Numbers at Swillington Ings were relatively high, with singles in April on 5th, 26th and 30th, and in May, two on 7th, one on 13th, two on 14th, one again on 15th, another on 17th and two more on 20th and 21st, with one still on 22nd, all in winter plumage. Single birds in summer plumage were present there on 2nd and 6th June, with two more flying west on this latter date, and another summer-plumaged bird on June 20th. Passage elsewhere included singles at Edderthorpe Flash on 16th April and Withens Clough on 3rd May, Potteric Carr and Winterset on 6th May, with two on 8th and 9th and one on 19th. There was a series of records from Old Moor with one on 7th May, six on 13th, one on 14th, four on 15th, one from 17th to 19th, four on 21st and one on 22nd. At Hatfield Moors a single appeared on 3rd May, two were present on 8th, five on 15th, with six present the following day. Other May records included: one at Thornton Moor Res on 5th with two there on 24th, two at Fairburn Ings and a single at Potteric Carr on 13th, and singles at Orgreave Lake on 14th, Calder Wetlands on 16th and Thrybergh CP on 24th. Three were at Lingham Lake on 14th May, with further singles on 16th and 22nd, and one was at Nosterfield NR and another at Farnham GP on 16th May. Four on Huxter Well Marsh at Potteric Carr on 5th June were the last of spring.

Post-breeding passage started in late July, with just four singles noted south in the Scarborough area between 29th July and 31st August. At Filey just 67 were logged, 35 of these occurring on 23rd August. A single on the Brigg on 31st July had been ringed in Eastern Greenland in the summer of 2008. At Flamborough, 57 bird/days were logged in August. At Spurn, 903 flew south between 25th June and 31st October, and passage in July included highs of 229 on 15th, 211 on 23rd, 195 on 30th and in August, 89 on 14th and 93 on 17th.

Inland, autumn records consisted of an adult in full breeding plumage at Nosterfield NR on 19th July, one at Calder Wetlands on 20th July, a single at Broomhill Flash/Wombwell Ings on 30th July, two on Hatfield Moors on 12th and 29th August and one there on 13th, and five flew west over Goole Moors on 31st August. Singles then visited Edderthorpe Flash from 19th to 21st August, Hay-a-Park GP and Thornton Moor Res on 5th September, Waverley on 7th September, Lingham Lake on 16th September and finally, Old Moor on 14th October.

A sign of a dramatic decline, there were just two winter records from the Scarborough district and a maximum of just 30 in Filey Bay towards the year-end; in addition, there were three on 2nd November and five on 2nd December at Flamborough.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* **A**

Uncommon passage migrant, scarce in spring

Nearest populations are in Norway, followed by Arctic Russia. Winters in southern Europe and Africa, passing through the county on passage.

The first graced Blacktoft Sands on 27th February. One that flew south on 8th March at Spurn was the earliest ever site record, with another early migrant on 4th April. In May, singles appeared on the Humber at Spurn on 2nd, 17th and 18th, at Beacon Ponds on 17th/18th again on 23rd/24th and at Stone Creek on 24th. Inland, two were on Hatfield Moors on 23rd May.

The first returning adult was at Beacon Ponds on 26th June. In August, singles were at Patrington Outstray on 1st and 8th, and singles then flew south at Flamborough on 4th and Spurn on 6th. Three appeared at Stone Creek on 7th, and Potteric Carr then attracted singles on 7th and 26th August–3rd September. One was at Flamborough on 9th August, two at Blacktoft Sands from 14th to 17th, with further singles at Spurn on 22nd and at North Cave Wetlands on 29th. In September, singles appeared at Beacon Ponds on 2nd, Old Moor and Hatfield Moors on 4th, Spurn on 6th, Hatfield Moors on 10th, 14th–18th, Paull Holme Strays on 11th, Swillington Ings from 15th to 19th, Lingham Lake from 17th–19th and a different individual on 20th. Seamer Tip held one from 18th to 20th September, with further singles at Hornsea Mere, Potteric Carr (to 24th) and Stone Creek on 20th and at North Cave Wetlands on 22nd. Elsewhere, two visited Hatfield Moors on 12th/13th September, two were at North Cave Wetlands on 13th and another duo appeared at Blacktoft Sands on 15th/16th.

In October, one was at Nosterfield NR on 4th and one flew south towards the Humber at Spurn the following day, with three juveniles at Lingham Lake on 7th, Fairburn Ings on 24th/25th, but particularly late individuals were present at Potteric Carr on 11th November and at Edderthorpe Flash from 4th–15th November.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* **A**

14,6,5,8,5

Scarce passage migrant, mostly in spring; 341 previous records (367 birds)

This species breeds from Scotland eastward through Russia and small numbers each year stop over on passage at favoured inland locations in the county.

A relatively quiet year starting with the first at Potteric Carr on 13th/14th May (SF: MR *et al.*), followed by another at North Cave Wetlands on 15th/16th May (GAD *et al.*). One at the large pool at Seamer Tip was unfortunately flushed by a dog walker and left south mid-morning on 16th May (SRa). The next remained at Swine Moor from 16th to 18th May (ADWT *et al.*). An unusual autumn record was one that accompanied three Little Stints feeding on the silt at Lingham Lake on the afternoon and early evening of 7th October (MBI).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* **A**

11,10,15,14,6

Scarce migrant; 185 previous records (195 birds)

This species is the commonest of the Nearctic species occurring in the county.

An adult at Edderthorpe Flash on 7th June represented the first ever June record for the Barnsley area (GJS *et al.*). A single was then discovered on Hatfield Moors on 6th June and remained in residence until 9th (AM: BPW *et al.*).

More seasonal, an adult arrived at Nosterfield NR with four Snipe, ahead of a squall of rain at 1935hrs on 16th July and was still present the next day (SPW *et al.*). A juvenile then appeared on the Main Marsh, Old Moor, on 9th September before moving to Wombwell Ings on 11th, where it remained to 22nd (KD *et al.*).

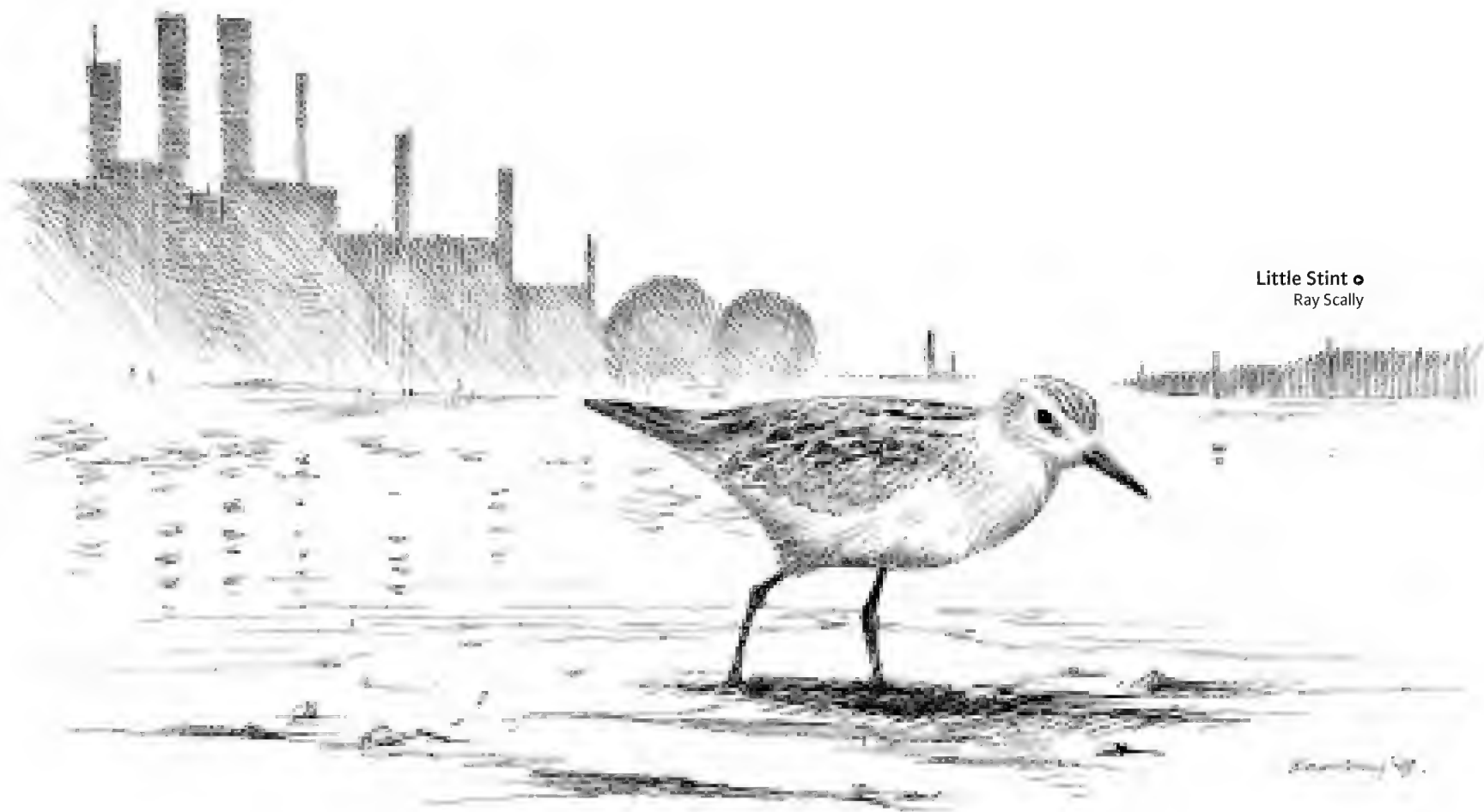
A single at East Lea, Filey on 26th September re-located to the Dams later that day and remaining in the area until 5th October (TIC: FXM *et al.*), and finally, on 7th October one appeared in the evening at Lingham Lake (SPW).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* **A**

Uncommon passage migrant; scarce in spring

A long-distance migrant from arctic Siberia, occurs in varying numbers each year on migration to and from south of the Mediterranean.

In May: one was at Beacon Ponds on 9th with one there on three more May dates; three appeared on the Humber at Spurn on 10th, with two on 23rd; one paused at Old Fall Flash at Flamborough on 20th; one stayed at Stone Creek on 22nd/23rd; two were at Beacon Ponds on 24th and one at Patrington Outstray from 24th to 26th May. Beacon Ponds then hosted a single on 13th June.



Little Stint •
Ray Scally

A rare inland spring record, a single appeared on Hatfield Moors on 23rd May; part of a notable passage of waders at the site, including Little Stint and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. In June, summer-plumaged adults dropped in at Swillington Ings on 2nd and Lingham Lake on 7th June.

The first coastal autumn migrants returned in July, starting with: one at Beacon Ponds on 2nd; one at Spurn on 10th, followed by one to three there to the month end; singles on Filey Brigg from 18th–22nd, with singles at Flamborough on 21st and South Gare from 24th–28th. At Spurn, passage continued through August, with singles on ten days, and five in September with the last on 30th: the year’s bird/day total at Spurn was just 44. Elsewhere, ‘salmon pink’ flushed juveniles began to appear at other coastal sites, with seven at South Gare on 20th August and one at Filey Dams on 24th and 25th. In September, five were at Paull Holme Strays on 7th, with six more records there in the month. Singles were also at Flamborough on 7th September and Redcar and Filey Dams on 16th, and two at Spurn on 15th. One or two were also noted on six dates at Beacon Ponds in September.

Inland records included adults in August on Hatfield Moors on 5th and at Scaling Dam on 17th, four at Nosterfield NR on 20th, one at Blacktoft Sands on 21st and a single at Potteric Carr on 22nd and 23rd. One was at Hatfield Moors on 31st August, where numbers increased in September to 11 on 12th/13th, with seven on 14th the last. Also in September, seven juveniles visited Old Moor on 4th; two were present on 14th, four from 15th to 24th, then two from 25th to 27th. A single lingered at Potteric Carr from 6th to 11th September, when two were present, and two were at Edderthorpe Flash on 14th, when five were seen flying north at Southfield Res. Four were at Blacktoft Sands on 18th September, increasing to ten on 21st and one visited Lingham Lake on 27th. In October, late singles appeared at Paull Holme Strays on 10th and on the Main Marsh, Old Moor from 8th–17th.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* **A**

Amber list: uncommon and declining passage migrant and winter visitor to rocky coasts

Breeds inland in Scandinavian tundra or further north on Arctic coastlines from eastern Canada to Siberia, wintering on rocky coasts. The national decline in wintering numbers has stabilized, but with birds tending to remain further north, it has become increasingly scarce in the county, where numbers peak between November and March.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
South Tees	5	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0

Once again there was a poor set of counts from the Tees, underlining the steady decline. The maxima of 32 compares unfavourably with high counts of 64 and 109 in 2008 and 2007 respectively. Additional records from Redcar included 29 on 21st January, 44 on 12th November and 33 on 3rd December. Up to 23 were reported from the Whitby coast in the first two months of the year.

At Scarborough, many fed in the area between The Spa and Cornelian Bay, and in particular on the Blacks Rocks where 49 on 12th January was the highest count of the early winter period. Regular counts at their high-tide roost site on the very tip of the East Pier were remarkably similar to those in the previous year: 38 on 26th January, 40 on 6th February, 40 on 20th February, and 38 on 10th March. Numbers then dropped with 13 there on both the 5th and 6th May. The first returned on 30th September, with numbers increasing to 47 on 31st December.

At Filey, the number to be seen on the Brigg was much lower than in the past. The year began with 22 on the Brigg on 4th January, and this was down to 12 by 16th February, with 15 present on 2nd April. After a single on 1st July, the late year peak was 24 on 28th November. At Flamborough, the highest early counts were 18 on 26th February, 16 on 1st March and 19 on 11th, with the last two recorded on 26th April. One on 23rd August was the first to reappear, but numbers to the end of the year remained in single figures. Ten were on the harbour wall at Bridlington on 29th October. Singles appeared at Barmston on 26th January and 15th February.

At Spurn, one flew south on 29th January. The next were singles on rocks off Kilnsea on nine dates between on 18th September and 22nd November, and a single was at the Point on 27th October. Singles then headed south on 15th July, 23rd September, 9th October and finally, 1st December. One came in off the sea on 7th October and the year’s last flew north on 3rd December.

Inland, there was only one record, a single at Huggin Carr near Hatfield Moors on 7th and 8th November.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* **A**

Red list: rare breeder on moors; common passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 3/211

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 13300: GB threshold 5600 winter, 2000 passage

Both breeding population of the race *C. a. schinzii* and the wintering population have been declining nationally for a decade and numbers are now at the lowest ever WeBS count levels. Inland passage numbers are also decreasing.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	13382	10268	5968	6417	12821	71	1013	8990	1375	1045	1991	2562
South Tees	1	0	1	0	300	10	160	31	36	15	3	1

The only breeding activity in the Barnsley area involved two adults displaying along Howden Edge on Langsett Moor on 15th May, with a single still present on 12th June. A pair was noted and display observed at Redmires Res on 2nd May. In the Halifax area, one was singing at Fly Flatts on 16th June. No breeding was recorded during the year in the Malham area, although at least two pairs were present on Great Whernside during May/June.

Ever present on the Humber, counts from Welwick to Easington included: 6750 on 18th January, 7650 on 22nd February, 7750 on 15th March and 8500 on 6th December. In addition, 2535 were noted at Spurn on 19th April, 8500 at Patrington Outstray on 29th April, 5210 there on 10th May and 4778 between Paull and Stone Creek on 13th June.

On the coast, just a single appeared in both the first and second winter periods in the Scarborough area, with a light passage through April and early May, when up to ten were at Scalby Lodge Pond, and passage again was apparent from July to October, with maxima of 38 on 10th August at Long Nab and 46 on 4th September at Marine Drive. In the Filey area numbers were slightly higher, with early and late year maxima of 80 on 16th February and 60 on 25th December. The total logged on autumn passage was well below average at 303; the best day count being 105 on 26th July. Numbers were also low at Flamborough outside the passage period from 4th July to 13th October, with 232 recorded in July, 902 in August, including 237 south on 9th, and 187 in September. At Spurn, 60 flew south on spring passage and a total of 4899 flew south and 121 came in off the sea in autumn, including monthly maxima of 520 on 15th July; 160 on 22nd August and 1477 on 31st October.

Many inland sites reported small numbers, including most upland reservoirs, particularly on passage in April and May, and again from August to October. Several locations recorded small numbers along the River Hull in January, March and June. North Cave Wetlands regularly attracted single figures, in all months except June and August, with a peak of 13 on 9th May. In the Lower Derwent Valley, Wheldrake Ings hosted 20 in March and May, but numbers increased later in the year, when 38 were at North Duffield Carrs and 110 at Bubwith in December.

Inland numbers peaked in spring/autumn; there were records in every month at Edderthorpe Flash and Old Moor, with a best of 65 at Old Moor on 15th May (73 present in the wider area), with 37 on 15th October the next highest tally. At Hatfield Moors, there were 47 on 15th May and 60 present on 22nd; the largest autumn count related to 40 in September. Similarly, at Southfield Res, the spring peak was 33 on 15th May and the autumn’s best only 14 on 25th September. In the Leeds area, 50 appeared at Swillington Ings on 7th May. In Upper Wharfedale, the highest count was earlier in the year, when 12 were at Mossy Moor Res on 26th March, but parties of 18 and 19 passed through Thornton Moor Res in May. Ever present at Nosterfield, 34 were present on 10th May; all individuals moving through Nosterfield in spring appeared to belong to the nominate *alpina* race.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis* **A**

3,3,4,0,2

Rare migrant; 28 previous records (26 birds)

Breeds in Alaska and north-west Canada, wintering in South America. A scarce visitor to the UK.

An unprecedented spring adult appeared on Hatfield Moors on 23rd May and remained until the following day (JWo *et al.*). The good run over recent years then continued when a juvenile appeared on Axle Lane, South Anston on 1st October (MCI: AHu *et al.*).

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* **A**

Red list: uncommon passage migrant and scarce winter visitor; has occasionally bred

England supports a very small population and most records relate to passage birds from Fennoscandia and Russia that winter in Africa, although over-wintering has been increasingly noted in the county.

It was a poor year, with such low numbers at coastal sites that all are listed. The only records from Cleveland were singles at Scaling Dam on 25th April and 5th August, and one at South Gare on 3rd September. In the Scarborough area there were just five records, involving seven birds: singles appeared at Scalby Lodge Pond on 10th May and Seamer Tip Pools from 16th–17th May. Two dropped in at Seamer Tip Pools on 11th August, a single visited Wykeham Lakes on 15th August and two were there on 5th September.

Similarly, it was a poor year at Filey, with up to two on several dates in August and a best of seven on 18th. At Flamborough, ten on 24th April was an unusual record, with only four other singles between July and September. In the Spurn area, there were just two records in the spring: a male in breeding plumage on the Humber on 11th

April (also seen at Beacon Ponds), and four flew south on 27th April. One came in off the sea on 30th July, singles were seen on six dates in August, plus three on 15th and four on 16th and two flew south on 25th September.

The Lower Derwent Valley held the majority. A wintering flock of 41 resided at Cotingwith on 18th January, with 38 at Thorganby Ings on 21st. Numbers built up in March, with 93 at North Duffield Carrs on 16th and 45 at Wheldrake Ings on 24th the best. Up to 54 (46 males) lekking birds were present during March and early April with 27 (21 males) present to late April and five males and three females present into early May, but there was no evidence of breeding. The first returned to North Duffield Carrs on 29th August, with numbers building up to 51 there in December. Blacktoft Sands RSPB also proved attractive, with seven present on 16th January and 11 on 27th June; similar numbers were present in August with a peak of 57 on 8th September.

Elsewhere, small numbers wintered in the Hull Valley, with up to 17 at Swine Moor and 14 at Pulfin & High Eske during March/April. One appeared at Swillington Ings on 9th January, and a party of ten was present on 17th March. Only singles dropped in at North Cave Wetlands in April and May, and up to two appeared between 27th July and 6th December. In the Halifax area, one arrived at Soil Hill on 27th April and two were at Gaddings Dam, Langfield Common on 25th May. In the Barnsley area, singles were present at Edderthorpe Flash and Broomhill Ings on 1st May. However, Old Moor was the favoured site, with records from April to November and a best of five on 21st July. Two were at Lingham Lake on 31st May, with a male at Nosterfield NR on 3rd June.

Return passage started from 27th June at Nosterfield, with two white-headed males, and then up to two were regular until 8th November, with five on 5th November the highest count. At Tophill Low, passage resumed on 1st July and continued to 28th September.

There were records from Hatfield Moors between 10th July and 18th October, with a high of five on 26th September. The first at Thorne Moors were three on 14th August, with two there on 16th and 23rd, two again on 23rd September and a single on 8th October. At Fairburn Ings, one appeared on 26th June and then singles were present from 10th–13th September and from 17th–29th December. Other December sightings included one on the Calder Wetlands from 25th–28th and another at Rother Valley CP on 27th.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

Breeds from northern Fennoscandia east to Siberia and winters from maritime Western Europe south to Africa.

There were no records from the Cleveland area. In the early part of the year just a few were located in the Scarborough district, with singles at Long Nab and Cromer Point Pond in January, and Wilton Carr in February. A single on passage appeared at Stony Marl Moor on 20th April and 1st May. Later in the year, singles were at Hundale, south of Cloughton Wyke, Cowath Beck, Flixton Carr and Star Carr. In the Filey area there were eight records of up to two between 3rd January and 19th April (a notably late date for the site). There were just four autumn/winter records, probably involving three individuals. At Flamborough, two were seen on 4th January and three singles were recorded in January, March and April, and there were seven bird/days in October. Singles were noted at Barmston on 7th January and Grimston on 15th and 21st February, with two at Barmston on 4th April. There were more records from the Spurn area, mostly singles in the early months, with two on 14th January and four nearby at Beacon Ponds on 18th February, with the last at Spurn on 28th April.

Recorded at many inland locations from January to March, including: Aldwarke SF, Barrow Tip, Beal Carrs, Blackburn Meadows, Bolton Ings, Clifton Ings, Dewsbury SF, Fairburn Ings, Hatfield Moors, Horbury Strands, Knaresborough, Little Studley Meadows, Malham Tarn, Old Moor, Nicholson's Lagoon, North Cave Wetlands, Ringstone Edge, Rodley NR, Silverwood Pit, Skipton SW, Staveley, Stone Creek, Thorne Moors, Waverley, Wheldrake Ings, Wholestone Moor, Wilton Carr, Winterset and Wombwell Ings. Nine were recorded at Wilthorpe on 5th January, four at Winterset on 17th, increasing to seven by 31st. In February, four remained at Wilthorpe, four were at Pugney's CP on 13th, four at Swillington Ings on 21st and numbers on the Pol at Winterset reached ten on 28th. Five were at Horbury Strands on 18th March. April records included three at Winterset on 4th and singles at Bolton Ings on 19th, Hay-a-Park GP on 28th and Beal Carrs on 29th/30th.

Birds were scarcer in the second winter period. In September, one was at Dewsbury SF on 12th/13th and again on 5th October. The first returned to Spurn on 16th September, two then came in off the sea on 30th. Twelve came in off the sea during the autumn, with up to four recorded throughout October/early November, with five on 2nd October and a minimum of 12, a new site record, on 10th October.

Two were at Sunk Island on 10th October, one remaining to 13th. Further inland, singles were at Skipton SW on 6th October, Wath Ings on 7th and 8th, Soil Hill on 10th, 12th and 19th, Wilthorpe Marsh on 11th, with up to two still there to the year-end. Additional October records included: two at Brickworks Pond on 12th, two at Pugney's on 16th, one at North Cave Wetlands on 17th, three at Winterset on 18th, one on Hatfield Moors on 19th/20th, one at Rodley NR on 24th, two at Bishop Monkton Ings on 28th/31st, one at Blacktoft Sands on 29th and three at Dinnington Colliery Tip on 30th.

In November, one was again at Soil Hill until 13th November, four were at Skelton Grange from 11th, five were again at Horbury Strands on 13th, two appeared at Scout Dike Res on 15th and three were on Hatfield Moors on 28th. Singles were at Old Moor on 6th, 26th/27th November, Wholestone Moor on 8th, Waverley on 10th, Scout Dike Res on 15th and Silverwood Pit on 23rd. In December, singles were at Wombwell Ings on 9th, Waverley on 17th, by the River Dearne at Darfield on 19th and Aldwarke SF on 21st and 28th, with three at Blackburn on 20th and three at Yeadon Tarn on 30th.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* **A**

Scarce breeding resident; fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 27/211

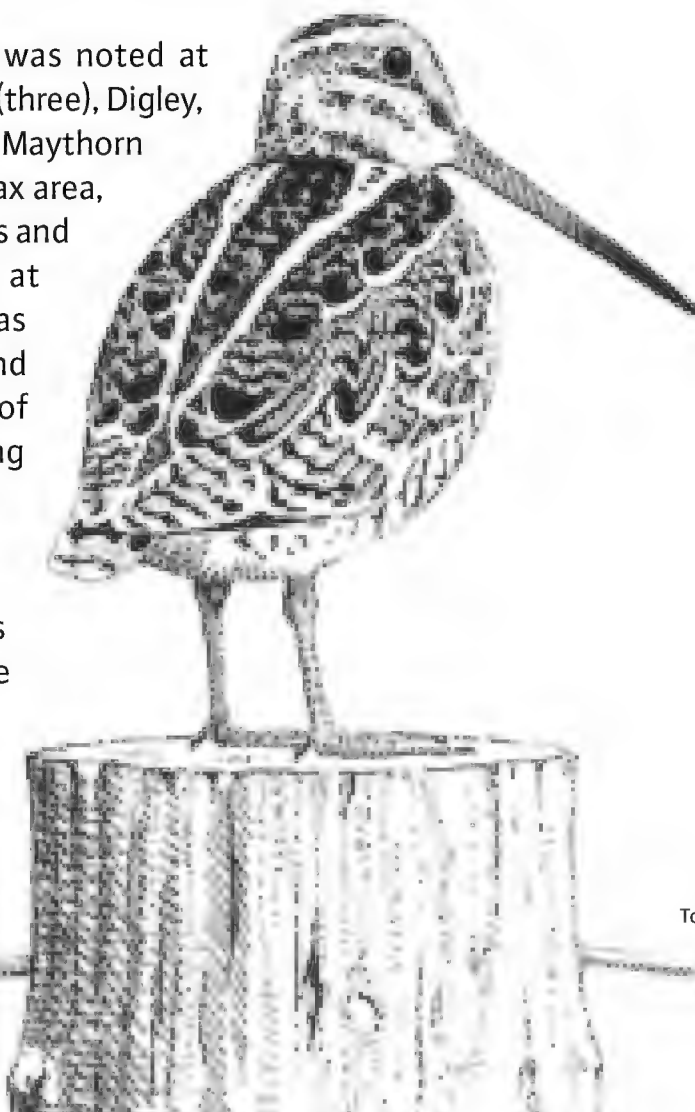
Although nominate *gallinago* breed in Yorkshire, numbers appear to be declining due to drainage of lowland habitat and changes to upland environments. BBS data shows some increase in England since 1994. Numbers increase in winter as migrants from the boreal and subarctic zone move south.

Larger counts early on included: in January – 36 at Gallow Hill Pond, Knaresborough on 2nd, 30 at Flamborough on 4th, 15 at Wilthorpe Marsh on 5th and 6th, 200 at Swine Moor on 11th, 80 at Horbury Strands on 16th, 42 in the Seamer Meads/Seamer Carr area on 22nd, 21 at Went Ings on 28th, 30 at Blacktoft Sands on 29th, 24 at Carlton Marsh on 31st, and 100 at Swillington Ings late in the month. In February – 25 were at Farnham GP on 2nd, 37 at Old Moor on 11th, 25 on Anlaby Common in Hull and 65 at Edderthorpe Marsh on 16th, 20 at Rodley on 22nd, 50 at Heslington Tilmire on 23rd and 64 at Winterset on 28th. Maxima in March included: 30 on Hatfield Moors on 11th, 140 at Horbury Strands on 18th, 50 still present at Edderthorpe Flash, 30 at Old Moor, 25 at Staveley NR and 17 at Winterset. Twenty flew south at Spurn between 23rd and 28th March.

Possible breeding individuals were reported from Guisborough Moor, Dimmingdale, Gerrick Moor and Sleddale during May and June. In Ryedale, a pair bred at Hartoft Moor, with two chicks seen on 19th May. In the Scarborough district, a pair was displaying at Rudda Howe Moor on 9th June, and 'drumming' was also noted at Helwath Beck on 22nd June and Flotmanby Carr throughout the spring. In the Hull Valley, drumming birds were noted at Pulfin & High Eske (two), Tophill Low (two), and Swine Moor (six) and in the York area at Flaxton, North Duffield Carrs (four), Pocklington Canal, Strensall Common (four), and Tilmire (four). The breeding population of the Lower Derwent Valley was not surveyed however. Displaying birds were widely reported from the Barnsley/Rotherham recording areas from late March, including Ewden Beck (11), Flight Hill (up to ten), Whitwell Moor (five), Langsett Moor (five), Harden (four), Hollow (four), Midhope Moor (four), Redmires Res (four), Snailsden Moss (four), Windleden Res (four), Stone Moor (three), Whitley airfield (three), Rocher Head (three), Langsett (two), Low Moor (two) and singles at a number of other sites, including Carlton Marsh, the first there since 1988.

In the Huddersfield area, drumming or chipping was noted at Carlecotes Pond, Crossland Hill, Deanhead Res, Deer Hill (three), Digley, Fox House Moss (four), Hartcliff Hill, Isle of Skye Quarry, Maythorn Slack, Reddishaw Knoll and Riddle Pit Farm. In the Halifax area, breeding sites included Cold Edge Dams, Flints, Fly Flatts and Walshaw Dean. Three drumming birds were noted at Swillington Ings. In Upper Wharfedale, drumming was recorded from a number of sites between 23rd May and 17th June, although there was no direct evidence of breeding. In the Bradford area, good numbers of displaying birds appeared in spring, particularly on Barden Moor, and at Glovershaw, where breeding proven. In the Malham area, displaying and calling birds recorded on Malham Lings, Tarn Moss, Street Gate, Tarn Fen and Fountains Fell. Breeding appeared confined to higher ground in the Harrogate district.

VisMig counts at Stainburn illustrated post-breeding movements, with 23 on 26th September and 38 and 41 on 10th and 14th October respectively.



Snipe •
Tony Disley

Immigration was apparent along the coast and outer Humber from mid–July, with 82 at Stone Creek on 5th September. Visible passage at Spurn produced 64 heading south and 210 in off the sea, including 49 ‘in’ on 30th September and 58 ‘in’ on 20th December. The first re–appeared at Filey Dams on 6th August. Exceptional cold weather in December resulted in an influx of 27 around the Top Fields, Filey on 17th, with 35 there on 21st and four landing on the rocks at Scalby Mills on 19th. The same date produced tallies of 121 at Flamborough and 41 at Spurn.

Inland totals included 45 at Edderthorpe Flash on 16th and 70 at Old Moor on 27th September, 21 on Thorne Moors in September, 100 at Fairburn Ings and 63 at Thornton Moor Res in October, 45 at North Cave Wetlands and 24 at Beal Carrs in November and 49 at Nosterfield NR, 48 at Bubwith Bridge and 50 along the River Hull between Wilfholme and Aike in December.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* A
Amber list: uncommon breeding resident, passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 1/211

The main breeding areas are Fennoscandia and Russia, and immigrants from these areas are noted on the Yorkshire coast and winter in woodlands. Small numbers breed. BBS is not accurate for recording this species, but nationally it is thought to be declining rapidly, hence Amber list status.

There were numerous reports during the first two months, with maximum counts of 12 in Wykeham Forest, five at Buckton in January and ten at Eston Moor in February. Influxes were noted at Spurn in January, with six on 5th, eight on 9th, and six on 11th. A late individual remained at Parish Wood, Filey on 16th May.

Roding birds were reported in Guisborough Forest, with as many as ten at dusk in early June. Other roding birds were reported from Waterfall Farm, Guisborough and the Stanghow area during late May and early June. It is thought to breed widely in the forests in the Scarborough area, but is under–recorded, with two in Harwood Dale Forest, two in Wykeham Forest and two in Langdale Forest the only reports, and also roding noted from Ryedale at Sykes.

In lowland East Yorkshire, roding was recorded at Houghton Woods, South Cliffe, and North Cliffe and in the York area at Allerthorpe Common, Gilling Castle/Village and Skipwith Common. Four roding individuals were on Thorne Moors and breeding was confirmed there when a nest with four eggs was found. In the Barnsley area, roding was noted at Broomhead Moor, Canyards, Cowell Flat, Haw Park, Langsett (North America Wood and Langsett Res), Little Don Valley, Midhope, Morehall Res. In the Rotherham and Sheffield areas, roding was recorded at Agden Side, Beeley Wood, Blacka Moor, Bole Edge, Burbage Moor, Coumes Vale, Damflask Res, Emlin Ridge, Ewden Heights, Hall Broom, Load Brook, More Hall Res, Redmires, Raynor Clough, Rocher Head, Strines Moor, Tootley, Westwood, Wharncliffe (seven), White Lee and Wortley Bank. Additional sites in the Huddersfield area included Crossley’s Plantation, Holme Styes and Swinden Plantation. Breeding is thought to be increasing in the Halifax area, including at Blake Dean, Castle Carr, New Laithe Pasture, Ogden and Walshaw Dean. In the Leeds area, the only roding noted was at Harewood Park, but it is probably under–recorded elsewhere. In Upper Wharfedale it breeds more widely, with Timble Ings a favoured location with three roding there and breeding was proved at Denton. Two were displaying near Barden Bridge near Bradford, and roding was recorded at Ellington Banks in the Harrogate district.

Reports of coastal arrivals started in October with two at Filey on 10th, a single at Spurn the next day, one on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 15th and an influx was noted in early November, with 14 at Spurn on 1st the highest count. Flamborough recorded 25 bird/days in October and ten in November. Extreme weather in December brought more to the coast, with eight at Filey on 20th and 23rd and up to five at Spurn. Further inland, five at Otley Moat in December represented one of the higher counts.

BLACK–TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* A
Red list and UK BAP subspecies (*limosa*): rare breeder; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. WeBS Status – Int. threshold 470: GB threshold 150

Counts on the Humber regularly exceed the GB threshold. The increase in the UK wintering population of the Icelandic *islandica* race continues; no more so than on the Humber estuary which became the UK’s second most important site in 2007. Flocks seen on the Yorkshire side are sometimes birds visiting from the main south bank population. The subspecies *limosa* has occasionally bred in the Lower Derwent Valley.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	45	100	322	95	27	12	257	64	12	53	40	32

A wintering flock was present on the Humber, with the highest count at Spurn 245 on 11th January, but numbers quickly dropped there in February, with a monthly maximum of just 35 on 21st and the last of spring appeared on 22nd May. However, 200 were at Stone Creek on 22nd February and 146 were still present at Patrington Outstray on 19th April. Further up the river, Paull Holme Strays was a favoured location, numbers building up rapidly through July to a peak of 874 on 7th August, with 422 also seen on 10th October, before dropping to double figure counts in November. On the coast, one lingered at Scalby Lodge Pond from 23rd to 29th April and four were at Scaling Dam on 21st April.

Inland, recorded in increased numbers between January and November. One was at Nosterfield NR and two in the Lower Derwent Valley at North Duffield Carrs on 3rd January, then up to 20 were at Wheldrake Ings in March, and the last of spring there related to 12 on 26th April. Records elsewhere included one at Old Moor on 15th February, one at Broomhill Flash and Wombwell Ings from 20th to 22nd and 30th March, with three from 26th to 29th, one at Rother Valley CP on 24th March, and two at Thorpe Marsh on 27th March. In April, there were two at Blue Man’s Bower on 8th April and one over Rother Valley CP on 22nd April. At Fairburn Ings, sightings of one or two from 19th to 26th March increased to an average of ten in April, with one at the end of May remaining until mid–June and nine were recorded on 15th June. The main spring passage at Swillington Ings took place in April when birds were present on six days, with 30 seen on 19th and 18 on 29th. Two were at Nosterfield NR on 14th April, followed by a few on several dates until 13th May, with a maximum of only 13 on 23rd April. The peak count at Blacktoft Sands was 100 on 9th April. Singles were on the Calder Wetlands on 19th April and 8th May. At North Cave Wetlands, the only records were 18 on 28th April and seven there on 17th May. Highs of eight recorded at Winterset on 25th, Edderthorpe Flash on 26th and Old Moor on 30th April. In addition, a single appeared at Scaling Dam on 16th May.

Return passage involved larger parties, and included seven at Winterset on 26th June and ten there on 23rd July, and the highest count at Rother Valley CP was four on 27th June. Old Moor recorded 15 on 28th June, 39 on 24th July, 40 on 8th September and 32 on 29th November. Eleven was the peak count at Tophill Low on 1st July, five were at North Cave Wetlands also on 1st, with subsequent singles through to 16th August, and three visited Thornton Moor Res on 4th July. At Beal Carrs, one was noted on 22nd July followed by six heading west on 1st September. At Nosterfield, the highest count was 16 on 30th July, with 38 at nearby Lingham Lake on 1st September. Eleven flew east at Southfield Res on 15th August, but a single at Pulfin & High Eske on 20th August comprised the only site record. During mid–August 38 were present at Fairburn Ings, with ten remaining throughout September and four into October. The peak count at Rother Valley CP was 15 on 28th August.

Records were more widespread on the coast, with three at Scaling Dam on 30th June increasing to four on 2nd July, and three on 12th. A total of 25 headed south at Filey on 2nd July, and six graced the Dams on 5th August; two appeared at Seamer Tip Pools on 17th August, with one remaining until the 22nd. At Flamborough all records were in August, with 13 on 2nd, 33 on 13th, four on 15th and five on 16th. At Spurn, single or low double figure counts were made regularly throughout July to September, with the wintering flock re–appearing there on 31st October. In total, 169 flew south and 13 came in off the sea during the autumn, with high counts of 101 on 30th July and 15 on 25th September. The wintering flock had increased to 334 on 31st December.

At Hatfield Moors, nine on 14th August were followed by 38 on 16th, two on 21st and four on 6th September. Autumn passage at Swillington Ings included 24 on 18th August and Potteric Carr’s maximum related to 42 that dropped in on 1st September. A single remained at Nosterfield NR on 3rd and 4th December, before moving to Flasks Lake on 5th, with this or another on Lingham Lake on 19th December and one appeared at Bubwith Bridge on 20th December.

BAR–TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* A
Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1200: GB threshold 620

Breeds in the Arctic tundra, the nominate race *lapponica* wintering on estuaries around the North Sea. Winters on the Humber, but many birds probably leave in February for the Wadden Sea. Has declined dramatically nationally in the last five years, and numbers on the Tees were again noticeably low.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	1147	943	846	261	71	141	35	85	49	19	80	853
South Tees	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	30	34	5	14

Present on the Humber throughout the year. The highest sector counts came from Welwick to Easington, with 1035 on 18th January, 710 on 22nd February, 810 on 19th April, 715 on 10th May and 1510 on 6th December. At Stone Creek, 550 were present on 6th February. It remained scarce in the South Tees area, although additional counts included 25 at South Gare on 8th March and 21 at Bran Sands on 27th August.

There were no early records from Scarborough, but a light spring passage included 14 on Scalby Lodge Pond on 24th April; there were more regular records in September, with nine the best. At Filey, after an early single, 13 went south and one was at the Dams on 24th April, and 16 were on the Country Park the next day. Spring’s last record related to 14 on the beach on 26th April and ten there on 29th. The first returning bird was a single on 2nd July, and then seven appeared on the Brigg on 17th August, which proved to be the highest count, with just single figure counts to the year–end. Seven were present on the beach at Reighton on 24th April. The pattern at Flamborough was similar: present in low numbers in most months, with the highest counts on spring passage, with 16 on 24th April, and little evidence of autumn movement. At Spurn, 25 flew south on 24th April and 112 flew out east between 21st April and 31st May, including a high of 38 on 31st May. A reasonable passage in the autumn saw 194 fly south and 12 come in off the sea between 1st July and 2nd December. The highest counts were 27 on 17th August and 51 on 31st October.

Inland records included a single in Kingswood, Hull on 20th January and two at Fairburn Ings on 22nd March. Activity increased during April, with singles at North Cave Wetlands on 3rd, 12th and 28th, at Tophill Low on 20th and nearby at Wilfholme the next day, on the Calder Wetlands and at Deer Hill Res on 24th and Skelton Lake from 24th–26th. Fourteen flew west at Blackmoorfoot Res and two were at Nosterfield on 25th (one remaining to 27th) and two were at Wheldrake Ings on 25th, with one there still on 28th, and another remained at Potteric Carr on 25th/26th. Two were at both Old Moor and Winterset on 28th April and three flew west at Blackmoorfoot Res on 30th. Potteric Carr hosted eight on 13th May and a single flew over Southfield Res two days later.

Two visited Swillington Ings on 6th July and one was at Broomhill Flash on 17th July. Flasks Lake hosted a single on 1st August, one flew south at Nosterfield NR on 3rd September and, finally, a lone individual appeared at North Cave Wetlands on 20th September.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* **A**

Red list: uncommon to fairly common spring and autumn passage migrant. BBS 2/211

Breeds from northeast Greenland east to Siberia, with a small population in northern Scotland, migrating overland and along the coast to winter in Africa.

It was generally regarded as a good year for passage. The first spring migrants were noted in April, starting with a single at Malham on 2nd April (the only other record there was on 29th), one circled over Tophill Low on 4th, one was at Redmires Res on 6th, a single dropped in at Stone Creek on 7th, three singles were logged at Spurn on 10th, one appeared at Swillington Ings on 11th, with eight there and nine over Rawmarsh on 16th. Other records in the latter half of April included: one at Filey on 17th, four on the Brigg on 18th/19th and two at Scarborough on 22nd.

Inland, passage was noted through the Hull Valley at Swine Moor in April and May (peak count of 18 on 5th May), and at North Cave Wetlands, where four on 2nd May represented the best. Passage through the Lower Derwent Valley began with 11 on 17th April at Wheldrake Ings, with 44 there on 22nd and a peak of 60 on 28th. At Storwood, 37 were present on 27th April. In the Old Moor area, ten flew north–east on 16th April, two appeared on 17th and 23rd, but, otherwise, just singles were recorded on five dates to 29th May. Four were at Blackstone Edge on 19th April. Passage started at Southfield Res with five on 23rd April. Between 24th April and 12th May, up to 14 lingered in hillside fields at Swillington Ings. Four were also at Deer Hill on 3rd May. Fewer noted in the uplands; in Upper Wharfedale, Bradford and the Harrogate areas the only spring records were singles from Kirkby Malzeard, Leeshaw Res, Nosterfield NR, Thornton Moor Res and Wilsden, and three at Kex Ghyll on 10th May.

Passage at Spurn peaked with 22 grounded on 25th April; a total of 73 headed south, with 14 in–off and 57 flew out east. Passage elsewhere in May included: eight at Filey CP on 5th, 12 north at Long Nab on 10th, ten at South Gare on 16th, and several small parties at Brotton.

Return passage in July included a single at Thruscross on 4th, 11 through Puffin & High Eske on 22nd (a site record), three at Old Moor on 23rd and 76 at Hornsea Mere on 31st. In August, five flew south–west over Winterset on 1st August and a party of 13 headed through Southfield Res on 5th. Three singles were at Nosterfield NR in late July/early August, one was at Farnham GP on 1st August, and one in Ryedale over Sykes on 13th August was a rare local record, as was one at Thornton Moor Res on 21st.

The first returning coastal migrants appeared on 24th June at Spurn, with 61 going south at Filey and 15 at Ulrome on 25th, a very early date. Visible passage was subsequently higher than for many years. In July, passage was noted at Scarborough from 8th, with 54 south at Long Nab on 17th. There were reports of up to eight feeding or resting at Seal Sands and South Gare in July. At Filey, a total of 324 were recorded by early September, with a

best of 101 south on 22nd July; 50 roosted on the Brigg on 29th July. Strong passage was noted at Flamborough from July, with: 32 on 18th and 33 on 22nd July, and in August, 22 on 1st and 27 on 5th. At Spurn, up to 40 were on the Humber in July and 15 in August. An unprecedented offshore southerly passage at Spurn in July and August included a new record count of 444 on 18th July; subsequently, 298 headed south on 22nd July and 180 on 1st August. An incredible 2205 tracked south and 139 came in off the sea at Spurn between 27th June and 8th September; the last single appeared there on 13th October.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* **A**

Amber list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeder; fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor

BBS 102/211: –14% (–27) 1995–2009, –2% (+5) 2008–09

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 8500: GB threshold 1500

Breeds from Ireland to central Siberia, including both upland and lowland Yorkshire. Breeding numbers continue to decline regionally and nationally, hence its UK BAP status.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	1245	1775	1837	870	273	180	596	1107	933	89	1266	1285
South Tees	9	36	24	8	3	1	75	73	94	74	27	17

Present on the Humber throughout the year, although almost absent for a few days in late May and early June. A search of the Welwick to Easington sector produced 1150 on 15th March and 910 on 19th April. Away from the Humber, there were also 48 at Watton NR on 17th January and at Tophill Low on 7th February, and 41 at Puffin & High Eske on 20th March. Counts of up to 40 were the norm early on in the Scarborough area, with 53 in January between Long Nab and North Bay. High counts on the rocky shore below Gristhorpe Cliffs, Filey included 202 on 20th February. Up to 23 were recorded at Flamborough in February and December. At Spurn, it was an excellent spring for eastward migration: a total of 738 tracked east between 19th February and 6th May, including counts of 225 on 17th and 301 on 19th April.

Some winter inland, with 300 on Denton Moor, 250 at Denton Hall and 250 in the Ben Rhydding and Burley areas and 168 at Nosterfield NR in January. In addition, Swillington Ings recorded 64 in January and 51 in December. More moved to the uplands in February, with an early first at Ringstone Edge on 16th, 200 at Skipton SW on 23rd. March counts involved 27 at Cold Edge on 7th, 65 at Langsett by 13th, and 500 at Tarn Moss, Malham on 29th.

On the North Yorkshire Moors breeding was reported from Dimmingdale and Stanghow Moor. There was proof of breeding at several sites in the Scarborough district, including RAF Fylingdales, Stony Marl Moor, Willerby Carr and Wykeham Ings, and a pair was noted at Flotmanby. In Ryedale, birds returned to breed in late February, but all had left by the end of August. In the south–east, breeding was recorded near South Cliffe, along the Pocklington Canal and Lower Derwent Valley, Strensall Common (five territories), at Bishopthorpe and Middlethorpe Ings.

In the Barnsley and Sheffield areas, breeding birds were recorded on the moors at Bolsterstone, Broomhead, Ewden, Flint Hill, Langsett, Midhope, Nether Hey, Strines, Wharnccliffe, Whitwell and a number of other sites. In the Halifax area, most large moors held birds in the summer, while the largest gathering related to 15 at Walshaw Dean on 20th June; breeding was proven at Castle Carr Road, Dean Head, Scammonden and Withens Clough. It is a widespread breeding species throughout Upper Wharfedale at most suitable sites.

There remained a presence in the uplands throughout the summer months, with 150 at Tarn Moss on 18th June, and 100 on 7th July; the highest count at Ben Rhydding related to 300 in August. However, coastal movement re–started from June onwards, with a single at Hunmanby Gap on 13th and 31 present at Filey on 25th. Additional counts included 14 moving south past Long Nab on 3rd August and 17 south on 14th August. Autumn passage at Spurn saw 214 fly south and 46 come in off the sea between 16th June and 4th November, with good tallies of 21 on 23rd June and 41 on 22nd July.

Counts in the second winter period included the following December maxima: an impressive 176 at Nosterfield NR, 35 at Fairburn Ings, 52 in the Scalby Lodge, 74 at Tophill Low and 207 at Filey.

TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus* **A**

0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; three previous records

Breeds from Finland eastwards to eastern Siberia and winters in southern Africa and south Asia and Australia. An adult was discovered at Patrington Haven at 1530hrs on 23rd May and remained to the delight of many until 1835hrs when it flew east (BR *et al.*); only the fourth county record, Beacon Ponds, Kilnsea hosted the last on 1st June 2002.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* **A**
Amber list: uncommon breeder in north and west; passage migrant elsewhere. BBS 6/211
Breeds on stony upland rivers and reservoirs in the county, migrating south to winter as far as southern Africa. Passage includes birds moving to and from breeding grounds in Scotland and Fennoscandia. Has been declining across all European countries since the 1990s.

The first appeared at Fairburn Ings on 29th March, followed by another at Ulley CP on 3rd April, one at Potteric Carr on 5th and a single at Winterset on 8th. The following day there were four at Watton NR and four at Farnham GP, with 14 at Grimwith Res on 20th, four at Wykeham Lakes on 23rd and seven at Scaling Dam on 25th. In May, seven were at Hornsea Mere on 7th and seven at Green Withens on 10th. Seven appeared at Scaling Dam on 14th and the next day six were at Filey Dams. May ended with ten at Angram and Scarhouse Reservoirs on 30th.

Proof of breeding received from Scaling Dam for the second year running, with one fledged young. In the Barnsley/Sheffield area, pairs bred at Broomhead Res, Howden Res, Langsett Res (three pairs), Midhope Res, Redmires Res (four pairs), and probably at Agden, Ingbirchworth and Lower Windleden and More Hall Reservoirs. In the Huddersfield area, pairs were present during the summer at Butterley Res, Deer Hill, Isle of Skye Quarry, Wessenden Res and Winscar. In the Halifax area, pairs probably bred at several moorland reservoirs, and confirmed breeding came from Withens Clough (two pairs), Fly Flats and Whiteholme.

In Upper Wharfedale, it remains relatively common, and there were several records of breeding including from Fewston, Kex Ghyll (two pairs), Strid Woods, Starbotton and Oughtershaw; however, none bred at Malham Tarn, where there were formerly six pairs. A colour-ringed bird (orange over red) was at Ingbirchworth on 1st and 5th August.

Return passage commenced in June with one at Filey Dams on 19th and one at Spurn on 29th. Eighteen were at Farnham GP on 27th June. In July, noteworthy counts included 11 at Old Moor on 5th, 61 at Hornsea Mere, 23 at Filey Dams and five on Cloughton Town Farm Pond all on 17th, 12 at Lingham Lake on 18th, four at Wykeham Lakes on 23rd and five at Southfield Res on 27th. August passage included: five at Scaling Dam on 4th and 7th, seven at Filey Dams on 5th, ten at Skelton Lake on 6th, five at Paull Holme Strays on 8th, 11 at Whitton Sands on 12th, four at Flamborough on 13th, four at Spurn on 18th and six at Wykeham Lakes on 21st.

In the second half of September, late birds were noted Scalby Beck on 17th, Old Moor on 20th, Paull Holme Strays on 26th and two at Flamborough on 29th, with one remaining the following day. October singles were present at Ulley CP on 1st, Orgreave NR on 5th and North Cave Wetlands on 14th. Finally, a single frequented Gouthwaite Res on the unusually late date of 7th November.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularius* **A** 1,0,2,0,1
Vagrant; 14 previous records (12 birds)
Breeds in North America and winters in South America, as far south as Uruguay.

An adult in full summer plumage appeared at North Cave Wetlands from 1500hrs on 20th June; it remained until 0735hrs the next day when it flew off south (GAD: RSch *et al.*); this represented the first record since a single at Wykeham Lakes in July 2007 and the fourth this decade.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* **A**
Amber list: uncommon passage migrant, more numerous in autumn: some over-winter
Breeds in the boreal zone from Norway eastwards, occurring on passage at inland waters and gravel pits and regularly in winter on freshwater streams, ponds and wetlands.

There were several records of wintering individuals on the Carrs in the Scarborough district, particularly favouring the various stretches of the River Hertford and another was at Costa Lodge in Ryedale on 11th January. It was regular at Old Moor in both winter periods, with five present on 14th January and again in early December. Elsewhere there were winter records from: Aldwarke, Arram/Aike area (four on 28th November), Beal Carrs, Blackburn, Brigham, Broomhill Flash, Calder Wetlands, Cayton Carrs, Colnebridge SP, Cononley Ings, Cornfield NR, Dewsbury SF (four on 24th November), Ferry Moor/Cudworth Common Wetlands, Cornholme, Fairburn Ings, Flotmanby, Foston-on-the-Wolds, Grimston, Kelk, Knostrop, Harewood Whin, Harthill Res, Hatfield Moors, Kellington, Lemonroyd, Lindley Wood, Little Studley Meadows, Marley, North Cave Wetlands, Middlethorpe Ings, Otley Wetlands, Poppleton, Potteric Carr, Pulfin & High Eske, Ripon Parks, Ripon Racecourse (seven on 18th March), St Aidans, Shibden Head, Skelton Lake, Snaygill, Swine Moor (three on 11th January), Thorne Moors, Tinsley SF, Tophill, Ulley CP, Watton NR, Welton Waters, Wilma. A pair displayed at Broomhill Flash at the end of February.

The only spring records along the coast referred to two at Spurn on 11th April and singles on 17th, 19th and 25th and 15th May, one at Filey Dams on 27th April and two there on 11th May. Inland passage in April included four at Knostrop on 8th, five at Old Moor on 10th and 14th and two at Edderthorpe on 14th.

Autumn coastal passage commenced on 10th June at Spurn, followed by singles there on 25th and 26th and five on 27th. Also in June, singles were at Filey Dams on 16th and 22nd and three on 27th, one at Flamborough on 29th and one at Low Marishes, Scarborough on 30th. Blacktoft Sands hosted 14 on 27th June.

Four singles appeared at Spurn in July, with up to four on 12 dates in August, and a best of seven on 2nd August; the last appeared on 29th August. In the north, present at Scaling Dam on six dates between 18th July and 5th September, including a high of eight on 4th August. Nine recorded at Scalby Lodge Pond on 17th July and again on 5th August, with other August records from Seamer Tip Pools and Wykeham Lakes. Flamborough recorded five on three dates in July and 11 bird/days in August, including three on 5th. A single at South Gare on 11th August was an unusual record, but better numbers were present at Filey Dams, including a peak of eight on 25th August. Six appeared on the River Hertford and one dropped in at the scrape at Buckton during September. In October, presumed late migrants visited Skelton Castle on 8th and Filey CP on 15th.

Inland return passage started at Old Moor with a single on 8th June, increasing to eight there on 29th and peaked at 23 on 17th and 27th August. Highs elsewhere included three at Went Ings and nine at Beal Carrs on 30th June, eight at Broomhill Flash on 8th July, five at Tophill Low in August and up to four at Edderthorpe Flash in July and August. In July 12 were at Blacktoft Sands on 10th, six at Aldwarke SF on 13th and ten at Wheldrake Ings on 30th. August produced six at Pulfin & High Eske on 8th (a site record), five at North Duffield Carrs on 12th and 20 at Fairburn Ings mid-month. Four also appeared at Dewsbury SF on 4th September, followed by four at Skipton SW on 14th and six at Thorpe Marsh on 25th September. Three remained at Snaygill in September and October.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* **A**
Amber list: uncommon passage migrant; occasionally over-winters
A passage migrant from northern Scandinavia and subarctic regions further east.

Present in winter on the Humber in January at Paull Holme Strays on 1st and 17th, Spurn on 4th, and then a single at Spurn almost daily in February, with three at Paull on 6th February; in addition, up to seven wintered at Blacktoft Sands RSPB in January. More unusual, a single remained at Seamer Tip Pools/Burton Riggs from 29th January until 13th February.

Blacktoft Sands continued to be favoured, with five present on 1st April, increasing to seven on 9th. Elsewhere, one was at Scalby Lodge Pond on 21st and 22nd April with another there on 27th, and one at Spurn on 26th April. In May a single appeared at Beal Carrs on 14th and 15th.

In June, singles were at Scaling Dam on 15th, Spurn on 21st, Thornton Moor Res and Nosterfield NR on 27th and Fairburn Ings on 29th, with two at Beal Carrs and Thorne Moors on 24th. However, Blacktoft Sands attracted much higher numbers, with 15 on 25th June, 13 still present in July, 30 on 19th August and nine in September.

In July, singles dropped in at Nosterfield on 1st and at Spurn on 29th. There were more records in August: one at Filey Brigg on 7th, singles on three dates at Spurn, one on Thorne Moors on 10th and two on 16th, two at Whiteholme on 11th, one at Old Moor from 14th to 22nd and three juveniles there on 23rd, and singles at Fairburn Ings on 19th, Tophill Low on 20th and Beacon Ponds on 21st. A single was then recorded on most days at Potteric Carr from 29th August through to 26th September.

In September a single remained at Filey Dams from 2nd–4th, Spurn’s last stayed on 6th/7th and Blacktoft Sands recorded a peak of 30 on 24th. Further inland, singles were on the Calder Wetlands on 9th September, at Gaddings Dam on 17th and two visited Flasks Lake the following day. A juvenile appeared at Edderthorpe on 23rd September; perhaps the same individual relocated to Old Moor from 23rd to 28th and two flew west at Southfield Res on 23rd September. Potteric Carr hosted a single on 29th October and a late individual appeared at Bubwith Ings on 5th December.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* **A**
Uncommon passage migrant; occasionally winters. BBS 1/211

Breeds in north and west Scotland east through northern Scandinavia to Kamchatka. Although wintering in the UK in record numbers, birds generally pass through the county to winter further south.

The year’s first on the coast flew south at Spurn on 11th April and another was seen the same day on the Borrow Pit; up to two entered the Spurn log on an almost daily basis from late April to 24th May. The first two at Flamborough appeared on 24th April, with one remaining the next day. In May, there were four at Flamborough on 9th and singles on 16th, 25th and 26th. At Filey the first appeared on 27th April, followed by three other spring migrants. Passage in Scarborough consisted of seven at Scalby Lodge Pond between 27th April and 27th May.

Inland, one over-wintered at Ripon City Quarry until late March. Records from the Hull Valley included three at Swine Moor on 12th April, three there on 16th May, and four on 6th June; up to two also noted at Hornsea Mere, Pulfin & High Eske, Tophill Low and Watton NR. Further west, April singles appeared at Rother

Valley CP on 19th April, Ripon City Quarry the next day, Nosterfield NR on 24th/25th and 14th May, Wheldrake Ings on 25th and on Hatfield Moors on 28th April; there were further singles there on 1st/2nd May and no more than two later in May. Additional singles appeared at Swillington Ings on 19th, 27th and 29th April, with another at Lindley Wood Res on the latter date, and the first at Fairburn arrived on 30th April. In May, lone individuals were at Oxenhope on 6th and Winterset on 11th May and five were at Swillington Ings the next day. Other May records included singles at Beal Carrs on 12th, 14th/15th and Went Ings on 17th. Old Moor hosted its first on 12th May, with three at Great Heck on the same day. Finally, one was at Blue Man’s Bower on 14th June.

The first appeared back on the coast at Spurn on 16th June; a maximum of six were then present throughout July and August, with seven on two dates in August, up to five recorded regularly throughout September, with a maximum of 21 on 19th. Singles then recorded at Spurn on two dates in October and in November, the last on 7th November. In addition, 34 flew south and 15 came in off the sea at Spurn between 14th July and 20th September.

On the outer Humber, Patrington Haven hosted 30 on 8th August. The first to return near Scarborough appeared over Old Scarborough Tip on 21st June, followed by four in July. As well as 12 recorded during August, 18 flew south at Long Nab on 10th August. The last Scarborough record related to a single at Seamer Tip Pools on 20th September. At Filey the first to return were two remaining from 30th June to 1st July, with five present on 17th July and nine on 22nd August; the last recorded on 24th September. At Flamborough there were singles on 30th and 31st July, 16 bird/days in August and four in September.

Return passage at Old Moor included five on 26th June and 20 on both 28th August and 8th September, followed by the last two on 3rd October. Elsewhere a single was at North Cave Wetlands on 29th June, with three the maximum count there on 5th September. Sixteen singles recorded at Nosterfield between 1st July and 22nd October, with three on 8th September. Two were at Eccup Res on 2nd July, with singles on 8th July and 13th August. Return passage at Southfield Res commenced on 3rd July and finished on 7th October, with five on 20th August and nine on 1st September the highest counts. In the Bradford area, a maximum of three appeared at John o’ Gaunt’s Res from 25th August and 9th September. Fairburn hosted up to four during August. On Hatfield Moors, numbers were higher in autumn, with 14 on 7th and 12 on 20th August, with the last present on 26th September. Nine were at North Duffield Carrs on 13th August, five at Thrybergh CP on 16th/17th, six circled over Farnham GP on 18th, two headed over Pugney’s CP on 31st August and Rother Valley CP hosted two on 7th September. Swillington Ings final record occurred on 13th October.

The regular wintering individual returned to Ripon City Quarry from 18th October and stayed to the year-end, whilst two were at Bishop Monkton Ings on 15th November and one at Sharow Mires on the River Ure on 30th.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes* **A** 2,0,0,1,1

Very rare visitor; eleven previous records

Breeds throughout much of subarctic Alaska & Canada, east to James Bay. Migrates through USA, where some overwinter, but the majority winter from Caribbean and Central America to Chile and Argentina.

An adult dropped in at Wheldrake Ings on 22nd July; found early morning, it showed well all day from the Pool Hide, before flying off south-east with Redshank at 1820hrs (PP: RSS *et al.*). The same adult then relocated to Paull Holme Strays, where it remained from 24th to 30th July (ADWT *et al.*).

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* **A**

Amber list: scarce passage migrant in spring and autumn

Like the previous species, breeds in the boreal zone, but does breed in northern Scotland and winters further south in the Tropics.

The first appeared at Nosterfield NR on 18th April, followed by a single at Swine Moor from 23rd–27th April and new arrivals at Blacktoft Sands and Nosterfield NR on 25th April; in May there were three at the latter site on 11th, two on 12th and three again on 13th, with just a single remaining by 14th. The last week of April also witnessed singles appearing at Watton NR on 28th and Potteric Carr and Swillington Ings on 30th April.

Great Heck then hosted a single on 5th May, with further arrivals at North Cave Wetlands on 9th, Old Moor the next day and Thorne Moors on 24th. Along the coast singles appeared at Spurn on 6th May, Seamer Tip Pools on 16th/17th May, Flamborough on 20th May and Burniston Flash on 1st June. Inland, the last spring migrant stayed at Swillington Ings on 30th/31st May.

Return migrants appeared from late June, including singles at Bewholme, Blacktoft Sands, Great Heck, Hornsea Mere, Nosterfield NR, Swine Moor, Tophill Low, Wheldrake Ings and Wombwell Ings. There were two at North Cave Wetlands and four at Old Moor on 26th June and two at Patrington Outstray on 7th August.

Along the coast the first to return graced Spurn on 27th/28th June, followed by singles at Scalby Lodge and Northcliff Marsh, Flamborough on 29th. In July, singles visited Spurn on 5th and 17th and seven appeared at Scalby on 17th July, with two still present the following day.

In August, singles visited Cromer Point and Spurn on 2nd, Sunk Island the next day, East Lea in Filey on 4th, Scalby Lodge Pond from 4th–8th, Blacktoft Sands on 7th and Spurn the following day. A new individual then appeared at Scalby Lodge on 10th August, when Filey Dams also hosted a single, and another appeared at Blacktoft on 15th. In the latter half of August, there were two at Blacktoft Sands and a single at Filey Dams on 16th, one at Fairburn Ings on 22nd and another at Filey Dams the next day.

A single flew in-off at Flamborough on 2nd September, a single took up residence at Filey Dams from 2nd–6th and was joined by another on the latter date, and finally, one flew over Kilnsea on 19th September.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* **A**
Amber list: uncommon breeder; common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 11/211

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1300: GB threshold 1200

Nationally wintering numbers have been falling. Small numbers breed in saltmarsh along the Humber, only a few elsewhere on grassy upland sites and some wet meadows, but nationally the breeding population is also declining.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	1723	1507	1674	494	140	49	487	674	1549	544	491	1001
South Tees	154	138	113	28	0	0	43	113	218	453	422	415

Present on the Humber throughout the year, with peak sector counts of 875 between Paull and Stone Creek on 18th January, 920 between Welwick and Easington on 22nd February, 200 at Spurn and 465 between Welwick and Easington on 15th March, 800 at Stone Creek on 25th August and 860 at Welwick on 22nd November.

Smaller numbers also winter along the coast, including: 55 at Black Rocks, Scarborough and 123 at Scalby Lodge Pond in January and 65 on the drained Peasholm Park Lake in February. Numbers were down at Filey CP, where the early winter peak was only 27, although nearby, 75 were at Gristhorpe Bay on 20th February. Flamborough hosted 64 during the first winter period and 78 in the second.

Inland there were 73 at Bubwith Bridge, 33 at Skelton Lake and ten at Pugney’s in January; 126 at Pulfin & High Eske on 8th February, 16 at Tophill Low on 19th February and 112 remained at Pulfin & High Eske on 15th March. Birds were returning to breeding grounds in April, when 26 were at Swine Moor on 1st, 36 at Nosterfield on 10th, and 42 at Old Moor on 19th.

No breeding records were received from the Humber, although atlas surveys noted displaying at Welwick Saltmarsh. A pair was present at Scaling Dam in July. Four or five pairs bred at Swine Moor; at least nine chicks were present. Two pairs bred at North Cave Wetlands and breeding occurred in the Lower Derwent Valley, with at least two pairs at Wheldrake Ings, 30 individuals present at North Duffield Carrs and pairs at Middlethorpe Ings and Tilmire in the York area. Three pairs bred at Potteric Carr, while a pair accompanied two young at Old Moor on 19th May. Four pairs bred at Edderthorpe rearing ten young; in addition, there were three pairs at Broomhill Flash, two pairs each at Brampton and Cudworth Common Wetlands and single pairs at Black Moss and Royd Moor Res. A pair displayed at Winterset and single pairs may have bred near Catcliffe and near Whiteholme, where an adult and juvenile were present on 1st/2nd July.

Due to the relatively dry spring, only a single pair was present at Fairburn Ings, but several pairs bred at Swillington Ings. In Upper Wharfedale, juveniles recorded during June from Kex Ghyll, March Ghyll Res and Ling Park, and breeding may have taken place at Appletree Cottages. Three pairs also bred at Malham Tarn. In the Bradford area, pairs and/or breeding behaviour observed at Haverah Park, Middleton Moor and around Ilkley Moor and young appeared on Reva Hill and in Strid Wood. As in 2008, 12 pairs bred at Nosterfield NR, but success was lower, and five pairs bred in the Dallowgill/Fellbeck area; several other pairs were also present in the same area and in fields around Roundhill and Scarhouse Res. Finally, a pair attempted to breed at Ripon Parks.

Post-breeding dispersal took place from mid-July. At Long Nab, highs included 38 south on 17th July, 33 south on 21st July and 46 on 10th August. There was very little visible passage at Filey, with only 132 heading south, with a peak of 47 on 26th July. At Flamborough, sea passage was much improved on 2008, with bests of 119 on 12th and 106 on 23rd August. At Spurn, autumn passage was also above average, with 1695 south and 122 in off the sea between 17th June and 1st November; counts included 457 on 15th July and 181 on 29th August.

In the second winter period, Jackson’s Bay Scarborough held 100 in December, with 43 at Hunmanby Gap and 40 in Filey CP during the same month. Bubwith Bridge hosted 100 on 20th and North Cave Wetlands 187 on 31st December.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* **A**
Amber list: uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland. BBS 1 /211
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1500: GB threshold 500

Birds breeding in northeast Canada, Greenland and Fennoscandia winter on rocky or coarse sand coasts, and sections of estuary with fucoid covered cobbles from the North Sea south to West Africa, although they can roost in dockland areas.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	36	167	28	59	47	1	0	67	23	1	195	10
South Tees	103	36	61	10	20	4	61	22	12	30	80	204

Ever present on the Humber estuary, noteworthy totals included 30 at Saltend, Hull on 8th February, 155 at Hessle Stone Tip on 24th February and 276 on Hessle Foreshore on 20th March. A single visited Whitton Sands on 13th December.

The coastal rocks at Redcar proved particularly attractive, with 120 on 2nd April and 166 on 14th September. Runswick Bay held 38 on 2nd January and 30 were at Kettleness on 1st March. Around Scarborough, 52 congregated at the Spa and Black Rocks area in January and the harbour area hosted 36 in February. Light passage was noted from April to 8th June, with the first returning on 17th July. By the 28th November, 40 were back at Scarborough harbour, with a peak of 48 there on 15th December.

There were records in every month except June at Filey, with a best 45 on 16th February and 30 again at the year-end. At Flamborough, peak counts consisted of 35 on 24th February, 47 on 15th August, 60 south on 4th October and 99 present on 6th October. Bridlington held 25 on 12th October, with 25 at nearby Barmston on 28th December. At Spurn, the only visible spring passage related to 15 flying out east on 23rd May, but a better passage occurred in the autumn: 506 flew south and 12 came in off the sea between 18th June and 31st October; good counts included 49 on 23rd July and 51 on 17th August.

Inland records were much numerous in the first half of the year than in the autumn, and included one at Tophill Low on 21st February and five at Hornsea Mere on 28th March. At Swillington Ings, the first appeared on 30th April, with May records including one on 12th, three on 14th/15th, four on 19th, two on 20th/21st, three on 22nd/23rd, one from 25th–27th and three on 28th. Also in May, two visited Fairburn Ings on 6th, with another duo present on 13th May and a single there on 8th/9th June. Singles dropped in at Flasks Lake on 9th May, Nosterfield the next day, with three at Lingham Lake on 16th. North Cave Wetlands hosted eight on 13th May, with a single there on 18th, and another appeared at Potteric Carr on 13th May. Two were at Old Moor on 14th May, with 13 present on 15th and one east there on 31st. A single was at Winterset on 14th May, three flew north there the next day and up to two stayed from 18th and 27th May. Inland, passage peaked on 15th May, in addition to the aforementioned, a single appeared at Rother Valley CP and 19 passed through Southfield Res (in flocks of ten and nine). Hatfield Moors also experienced a passage during May, consisting of: two on 18th, three on 19th and finally, four on 22nd.

Return passage in July included one Skipton SW on 19th, a single at Orgreave NR the next day, two at Whiteholme on 23rd, when one also flew west at Rother Valley CP, followed by another at Whiteholme on 24th. Singles then dropped in at Nosterfield and Potteric Carr on 26th July, Great Heck on 29th and Old Moor on 31st. In August, one flew west at Old Moor on 1st, Potteric Carr hosted another on 7th, a single appeared on Hatfield Moors on 11th and two were present on Thorne Moors and Tophill Low on 30th. Finally, a single appeared at Potteric Carr on 2nd September and Hatfield Moors hosted a single on 12th/13th September.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* **A** 1,1,4,0,3
Red list and UK BAP species: rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn
A common breeding bird throughout the Arctic regions; most of the Western Palearctic population breeds in Iceland and Sweden. Winters in the Arabian Sea.

On 7th August, a juvenile flew south–west with Common Terns at 2030hrs from Beacon Ponds across towards the Crown & Anchor at Spurn (JG); presumably the same then flew south with Common Terns past the sea–watching hut at 1930hrs on 15th August (AAH *et al.*).

Subsequently, a juvenile appeared off Hornsea Mere’s Kirkholme Point on 14th and 16th September (AFJ *et al.*). The year’s last dropped onto Flasks Lake at 1015hrs on 27th September, where it was watched spinning on the water in typical fashion; it then commuted between Flasks and Lingham Lakes up to 29th September (SGr: RTP *et al.*).

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* **A** 25,8,38,14,9
Rare or scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

This species has a noticeably different distribution to the preceding one, breeding in North America east through Iceland, Spitzbergen and Novaya Zembla, but not in northern Eurasia. It is most likely to occur in our county after westerly or north–westerly gales, though rarely does more than one occur at same time.

At least five individuals were reported from around Filey, with two each at Flamborough and Spurn. The first stayed at Filey Brigg from 13th–18th January. A winter–plumaged individual was then discovered below Filey’s North Cliffs on 11th April (AN *et al.*); presumably the same then appeared in the Bay off Hunmanby Gap on 29th April, and again in Filey Bay on 7th/8th May, when still in winter plumage (KC).

A very unusual record related to an adult in almost full breeding plumage that appeared on the Humber at Spurn on 12th July (SE: JMT).

More seasonal, a single was off Filey Brigg on 20th September (JS), followed by another at the same location on 19th/20th October (IR *et al.*). A single rested on the sea off Flamborough Head on 27th September (KB: BH) and then one fed very close inshore at South Landing on the afternoon of 7th October (NPe *et al.*). Finally, one flew north close inshore at Spurn on 10th November (AAH).

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* **A**
Uncommon coastal passage migrant; more numerous in autumn; rare inland

Breeds in circumpolar subarctic regions, migrating south, sometimes overland, to winter in the southern oceans.

The only July records were off Flamborough, totaling five bird/days, including three on 12th July. Spurn’s first of the autumn appeared on 7th August, with the same individual still present the next day. Flamborough recorded just seven bird/days during August, with two on 23rd the best, while an adult headed north past Long Nab on 31st August. Activity increased from September, with 42 bird/days at Spurn from 5th through to 6th December, and singles headed past Ulrome on 5th September and Atwick on 9th. The Flamborough seawatch team logged just nine bird/days during the month, while 14th September witnessed a single north off Grimston, two north at Filey and three similarly at Marine Drive, Scarborough. Another single tracked past Scarborough on 15th and September’s final record related to a single off South Gare on 30th. October proved to be the best month and opened with two off South Gare, two off Scarborough, eight at Flamborough, nine at Grimston and eight at Spurn on 1st. Singles were then recorded spasmodically from several sites until mid–month, with higher counts including: 12 at Flamborough on 4th, seven at Spurn the next day, 14 off Flamborough on 12th and eight at both Flamborough and South Gare on 16th, with another 13 off the latter site the following day. Flamborough recorded two bird/days in November, a single lingered at Spurn from 6th–14th and the autumn’s last was off South Gare on 29th November.

An adult headed south–east past Sunk Island on 15th August, followed by another heading north–west there on 10th October.



Turnstone •
Ray Scally

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common coastal passage migrant; more numerous in autumn; rare inland

Breeds in northern Scotland and widely around the Arctic and subarctic, migrating along the Yorkshire coast and wintering at sea usually in the southern hemisphere, but some linger further north.

The population level of this species is currently suffering, as illustrated by an utter lack of loitering birds in the mouth of the Tees; high double-figure counts were once regular in late summer, with a best of 264 as recently as 1988.

There were five records at Spurn during the spring, with the first off the Point on 12th April. Subsequently birds headed out east from the Humber as follows: two on 28th and 29th April; four on 9th and one on 31st May. Elsewhere, there were two north at Long Nab on 11th May and three off Flamborough on 23rd May. Three bird/days at Flamborough, including two on 13th June, were the sole records for the month, with more regular sightings from 3rd July when a single flew past Spurn. Autumn passage totaled 205 bird/days at Filey, while Flamborough recorded 794 bird/days (compared to 563 bird/days in 2008) and Spurn logged 524 heading south. Again numbers remained low in August, traditionally the best month; southbound passage peaked on 29th with 20 off Long Nab, 55 at Flamborough and 64 off Spurn. Higher numbers were present along the coast during the first half of September with 65 passing Marine Drive in 2.5 hours on 4th, 80 off Flamborough on 13th and 49 logged at Spurn the next day. There were several double-figure counts in October, with 17 off Long Nab on 4th, 35 at Flamborough the following day and 30 logged at Spurn on 16th. Late singles headed north at Filey and South Gare on 29th November, with the last off Spurn on 17th December.

The year's first inland record referred to one flying upriver off Sunk Island on 2nd August (JW). The first week of September then proved productive, starting with a dark-phase at Southfield Res on 4th September. The next day a single at Farnham GP on 5th September was the first ever site record (JEA: RBr), while a juvenile west over Langsett Res on 7th September was probably this species. Finally, two headed west over Blacktoft Sands on 5th October and five tracked past Sunk Island on 10th October.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* **A**
Scarce coastal migrant mainly in autumn; rare inland

This circumpolar species is the scarcest of the skuas occurring in the county. Increased observer awareness led to more records in the 1990s, but recent years have been relatively poor. Numbers depend on the Lemming cycle and appropriate weather conditions.

A dreadful year began with a first-summer north at Flamborough on 6th June and an adult north on 11th July. Two adults tracked north off Flamborough on 13th August with another on 24th. Flamborough again cashed in when an adult moved north on 7th September. Juveniles started to appear from mid-month: a single headed north past Filey on 13th September, with another north past Marine Drive and then Long Nab on 14th and a different juvenile south past Grimston on the same day. October heralded another pulse of juveniles starting with a single south off Flamborough and another north at Spurn on the opening day. An adult headed north at Flamborough on 5th October followed by juveniles south off Marine Drive on 8th and 9th and finally a juvenile flew north at Spurn on 16th October.

This represents the worst year since the 13 recorded in 1981.

GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua* **A**
Amber list: fairly common to uncommon coastal passage migrant; rare inland

Breeds in Scotland, Iceland, the Faeroes and recently Scandinavia, migrating usually offshore to the seas off southern Europe.

Singles flew north at Spurn on 5th January and Saltburn on 31st January. The only February record tracked south off Marine Drive, Scarborough on 7th February, while there was a series of spring records at Spurn: one flew south on 28th March, with singles on 12th and 18th April and 11th, 16th and 26th May. In addition, a single was off Grimston on 10th April and two flew past Flamborough on 18th April.

Autumn passage started on 8th July, with a best of nine off Flamborough on 11th. However, numbers remained exceptionally low during August, with a mere 37 bird/days recorded at Flamborough; Spurn logged the largest movement, when 15 headed past on 29th. The advent of northerlies in the first week of September initiated an increase: Spurn logged 44 and Flamborough 88 on 4th, Long Nab recorded 27 and Flamborough 51 the following day, 47 flew south at Filey and 38 at Spurn on 13th and finally, 32 headed past Spurn on 29th September. Although not quite matching the previous month, numbers remained relatively high during October; Flamborough recorded the most significant movements, including 45 on 2nd, 33 on 4th and 33 on 5th

October, with 28 off Spurn on the latter date. Occasional singles remained offshore until the year-end, with December records from Scalby Mills, Flamborough and Spurn. In total Flamborough recorded 602 bird/days, as opposed to 598 in 2008.

Inland records are decidedly scarce, so a single that lingered at Southfield Res from 14th–16th May was notable; unfortunately, it was picked up dead the following day.

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini* **A**
Scarce autumn coastal migrant, very rare in winter

This species breeds from Greenland east to eastern Siberia and the western populations winter in the Atlantic. It typically occurs from late August to October, with numbers swelled by severe gales. Adults tend to move before juveniles.

It was a disappointing year, reflecting the lack of conducive seawatch conditions during September and October. The first adult flew north past Flamborough on 31st July (PC: PAL), shortly followed by another in breeding plumage south at Spurn on 11th August (MMc); another adult then tracked south at Spurn on 24th August (JWa). Subsequent sightings all related to juveniles, starting with a single north past Grimston on 13th September (TI), followed by two north past Spurn the next day (DMa). A juvenile headed north off Scalby Ness on 1st October (IA: RHA) and singles moved south at Flamborough on 16th (JCa) and north there three days later (PAL). Finally, a juvenile spent most of 22nd October resting on the beach at South Landing, Flamborough (C&PT *et al.*).



Sabine's Gull ◉
Colin Wilkinson

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* **A**

Amber list: common coastal breeder and passage migrant; scarce inland

Breeds along the coasts of northern Europe and the Arctic. Nationally has shown a dramatic 48% decrease since 1986, but despite this, Bempton Cliffs and Flamborough Head continue to support the largest Kittiwake colony in the UK.

The colonies in the north showed a 10% increase from a relatively low 2008 level, with 1670 pairs at Hunt Cliff and 2580 pairs between Boulby and Cowbar. The Castle Cliffs at Scarborough held 1596 nests when monitored on 21st June. The number of nesting pairs on the Grand Hotel also increased from 140 pairs in 2008 to 154 nests this year. Other structures along the Scarborough seafront also hosted nesting pairs, with seven occupied nests on the harbour, six on the Sea Cadets building, 12 on ‘Sulmans’ and 35 on the Town Hall. A boat survey from Filey Brigg to Scarborough Spa revealed 6413 ‘apparently occupied nests’ on the cliffs. There was no detailed survey of the Bempton/Flamborough colony this year, which held 37,617 pairs in 2008.

The first significant movement along the Scarborough coastline was witnessed on 10th May when 2500 headed north off Long Nab in three hours; 4500 flew north there on 14th August and 4600 again tracked north on 4th October. The last significant movement took place on 8th October, when 2000 flew north in one hour. Unsurprisingly Flamborough recorded significant movements on several dates, with 4000 logged on 10th March, 2410 passing the Headland on 24th May and 2120 on 19th July. Spurn recorded low numbers during the winter periods and summer months, with a spring best of 305 on 11th May. However, much larger movements took place during the autumn, starting with 758 on 10th, 430 on 14th and 3124 on 16th September. Passage peaked during October with the log featuring 2700 on 1st, 1845 on 2nd, 2900 on 5th and 1636 on 16th October. The final notable count at Spurn related to 1202 on 30th November.

The first inland records related to singles west over Fairburn Ings on 22nd January and one at Thrybergh CP on 25th January. In February a first-winter flew south over Winterset on 1st and a single visited Blackmoorfoot Res on 25th February. Records increased during March, starting with a single north over Thrybergh CP on 10th; an adult on Southfield Res on 17th March later flew west, two headed east over Eccup Res on 19th March and singles graced Thrybergh CP and Edderthorpe Flash on 31st March. During April adults visited Swillington Ings on 5th, Old Moor on 7th, Orgreave Lakes on 11th and, finally, Fairburn Ings on 12th April. Unusually, Swillington Ings hosted three on 31st May, while a first-summer visited Rother Valley CP on 26th June and a single appeared at Thrybergh CP on 20th July. After a long gap, there were no further inland records until a single at Broomhead Res on 24th December.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* **A**

Amber list: common breeder and abundant in winter. BBS 68/211

A widespread and successful species, breeding from east Canada east through Britain and Europe to north-east China. As many as 1.9 million are thought to winter in Britain, with many immigrants from northern Europe and perhaps western Russia reaching Yorkshire.

Tophill Low attracted a large roost in both winter periods, with an early peak of 9600 on 7th January; 5500 remained on 18th January, 3000 roosted on 22nd February and 2800 were still present on 1st March. Autumn immigration was illustrated by 3450 at Tophill on 2nd September and numbers built to a maximum of 11,000 on 1st November; only 2000 were present in the roost on 27th December. Southfield Res attracted 5000 on 5th March, with 2000 still roosting on 1st April. However, Southfield’s roost held its highest numbers in September with 7500 present on 10th September; presumably these related to recently arrived continental immigrants, which later dispersed further inland. Blackmoorfoot Res, near Huddersfield, also hosted a sizeable roost, with 6000 featuring throughout January and a maximum of 7000 present on 1st December. The roost at Winterset Res held 7000 on 31st January, with a maximum of 8000 in the second half of the year. Eccup Res held large numbers in both winter periods, with 17,500 regularly attending the roost during January/February, before reducing to 11,000 in March. Lower numbers featured during the spring and summer before rising to 6000 in September, 13,000 in October, 15,000 in November and, finally, 17,500 again in December. Further north large numbers also roosted at Lingham Lake during the first winter period, with 12,000 present in both January and February and up to 30,000 during March.

Proof of breeding in the east of the county was confined to 13 adults and six juveniles at Tophill Low by early August and 120 pairs which bred at North Cave. Colonies established at three sites on Thorne Moors, with the largest holding 225 adults. The colony at Old Moor contained 20 nests, while 187 breeding pairs at Winterset fledged at least 240 young. A total of 30 pairs attempted to breed at Pugney’s CP, but the colony quickly deserted, probably due to predation. Fairburn Ings held 60 breeding pairs, but Swillington Ings hosted far larger numbers; an estimated 1000 pairs nested at St Aidan’s, with almost 40 pairs on islands and tern rafts on the adjacent Astley

Lake. No detailed breeding reports were received this year from the well-established colony at Upper Barden Res. Further north there were 43 nests at Nosterfield NR, but the traditionally larger colony at nearby Lingham Lake was not censused.

Passage along the coast was illustrated by 410 north at Long Nab on 24th September and 1400 roosting in North Bay, Scarborough the next day. Southbound passage along the Scarborough coastline included 200 at Long Nab in two hours on 31st October and 60 south there on 14th October. Immediately to the south 1200 roosted in Filey Bay off Hunmanby Gap on 12th March, while high numbers were also recorded during the autumn. There was evidence of northward migration in September, with several three-figure counts, peaking at 815 tracking past Filey Brigg on 27th. The roost in Filey Bay contained 1260 on 2nd October and 800 on 15th November. Flamborough also hosted a significant increase from September, including 2200 on 9th, 1150 the next day, 1033 on 13th and 2150 on 24th. The best counts in October occurred during the first week, with 1642 present on the opening day, followed by 1805 on 3rd. Numbers remained modest on the Humber at Spurn throughout the first half of the year and only started to increase from July, with a best of 1000 during the month. September produced up to 5000 at Spurn, before a decrease to 2000 in October; only 60 remained in November. Passage at Spurn in the first half produced a total of 2055 south and 99 east, including peaks of 182 on 18th January, 170 on 8th March, 224 on 12th April and 164 the following day. In the second half of the year 2644 flew south and 678 came in off the sea, including bests of 268 on 20th August, 500 on 28th August and 309 on 17th November.

An albino dropped in at Tophill Low on 26th August, while a leucistic individual, that was completely white apart from brownish tinges to the wing coverts, visited Skinningrove on 16th October. Blackmoorfoot Res then hosted a single that was pure white, apart from black primary tips, on 12th November.

An adult returned to Thrybergh CP for its second consecutive winter on 29th November; it had been ringed at Malmo in Sweden on 11th June 2003.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon to fairly common passage migrant; scarce inland

Breeds across Eurasia with birds dispersing in late July, entering the North Sea via the Baltic, and generally wintering south of England.

In the north an adult visited South Gare on 4th February followed by first-summers at Scaling Dam on 17th and 28th July. A first-summer/second-winter appeared on Skinningrove beach on 19th September. In the Scarborough area a first-winter flew over Wykeham Lakes on 4th January, another appeared at Holbeck on 17th January and a first-winter visited Seamer Sewage Farm on 16th February. There were a handful of records in April, including an adult at Scalby Lodge Pond on 7th/8th, another on 10th/12th with a first-summer in North Bay, Scarborough also on 10th April. A first-summer dropped in at Scalby Lodge Pond on 15th May followed by a second-year at Scalby Mills on 21st May. Few were noted off the Scarborough coastline during the second half of the year, with an adult off Long Nab on 7th July, a single in Jackson’s Bay on 17th July, two adults off Marine Drive on 1st August and two north there on 6th August. Two juveniles headed north on 13th and 14th September and finally, four tracked past Long Nab on 23rd November.

Recorded at Filey on relatively few dates, starting with one heading south on 1st February. There were no further records until May, when there were first-summers at Filey Dams on 16th, a different individual at the Dams the next day, one off Reighton on 18th and another at Filey Dams on 27th. A first-summer was in residence at Filey from 14th–28th June and was joined by a second on 27th. There were no significant numbers off Filey during the autumn, with extremely disappointing maxima of nine on 21st November and 15 north on 28th. In line with other coastal locations, Flamborough experienced a very poor year; singles on 27th January and 10th April were the sole records in the first half. After three on 12th July, there were a mere 28 bird/days in August and 158 bird/days in September, which included 125 on 19th. The highest numbers were recorded in October with 233 on 13th and 945 on 15th. A single was present off Flamborough on 7th and 175 were logged there the following day; two on 12th and singles on 13th and 29th December constituted the Headland’s last.

As per usual, larger numbers featured along the Holderness coastline, starting with a single on Hornsea Mere on 29th April and three at the same location on 15th May. A seawatch at Atwick recorded 25 south on 10th July, while numbers roosting on Hornsea Mere started to build from early July. The highest count related to 690 roosting on 10th July, with 600 still present on 27th July, 200 on 6th August and 100 there on 24th August. Thereafter, numbers continued to dwindle, although 200 were present on 14th September. Two significant movements took place off Grimston with 100 heading south there on 27th July and 430 tracking north on 12th October. Most activity was focused around Spurn, although the year began quietly with singles south on 31st January and 1st February. April produced a single on the Humber and 20 north on 16th, 11 headed east on 24th, with another 12 similarly the next day. Two appeared off Spurn on 9th May followed by a single on 15th,

whilst numbers started to build in the second half of June, with a best of 16 on 27th. In July, high counts included 112 on 4th and 40 on 5th, although in line with other locations, numbers were surprisingly low in August, with no more than two on five dates. Numbers improved during September, although were still disappointing, with bests of 140 on 14th and 149 on 16th. An increase in October produced 452 on 1st, 626 on 4th, 450 on 11th and at least 1000 were off Easington Gas Terminal on 27th; there were records on six days in November, with the last of the year on 30th.

Immediately inland of the coast, the Hull Valley provided the vast majority of records starting with Tophill Low's first on 10th April. Welton Waters attracted two on 19th April and a single at Tophill the following day was joined by another on 21st. A single graced Welton Waters on 12th May, followed by four over Swine Moor on 21st May, while sightings at both Tophill Low and Pulfin & High Eske became more regular during May, including a best of ten on 31st. A first-summer visited Paull Holme Strays on 10th June, while numbers continued to build at Tophill where there were 40 on 27th June, with 35 still present the next day. After 45 on 1st July, numbers at Tophill increased to 120 by 4th and a creditable 123 on 11th July; thereafter numbers dropped, although 56 remained on 17th. These numbers were also reflected at Pulfin & High Eske, which recorded a maximum of 31 on 4th July. Elsewhere Paull Holme Strays hosted an adult on 2nd July; an adult was present at Bewholme Hall on 13th July, with another adult again at Paull Holme Strays the following day. In line with a poor return along the coast, there were far fewer records during August and Tophill's last related to a single on 13th September.

A single on the Calder Wetlands near Pugney's CP on 18th January was unseasonal, with the next inland records in March: an adult at Nosterfield NR on 17th preceded an adult at Winterset from 24th-30th and another visited both Skelton Lake/Swillington Ings on 29th March. A dramatic upsurge took place during April which began with singles at Fairburn Ings on 12th, North Duffield Carrs the next day, Nosterfield NR on 14th and an adult on Skelton Lake on 15th/16th April. A second-summer visited Ingbirchworth Res, Lakeside hosted eight, and an adult dropped in at Old Moor on 16th April, when an impressive 25 flew through Rother Valley CP. After a single on North Cave Wetlands on 17th April, there were three on Skelton Lake and four at Swillington Ings on 18th April, with one remaining on Skelton Lake the following day. North Cave and Rother Valley CP hosted singles on 20th April, five visited Fairburn Ings the next day, followed by a first-summer at Lingham Lake on 25th and a single again graced North Cave on 25th and 28th April.

A first-summer visited Pugney's CP on 12th May; Fairburn Ings hosted a single at the same time, followed by a second-year at Swillington Ings from 16th-19th May and a first-summer at North Cave also on 16th May. A first-summer lingered at Nosterfield NR/Lingham Lake from 19th-23rd May and one remained in residence at Pugney's CP from 21st-26th May. Another first-summer then appeared at North Cave on 22nd/23rd May, a first-summer was at Winterset on 25th, North Cave again attracted a first-summer on 28th/29th and the month's last tracked east over Southfield Res on 29th May.

There was an intriguing series of records from Swillington Ings during June; a first-summer on 6th was followed by three second-summer from 8th-13th, with two staying until 16th June. On 8th two of these indulged in brief display and twig carrying was observed - three days later one of the second-summer showed interest in a discrete area on one of the Black-headed Gull nesting islands, chasing off other gulls. It subsequently appeared to be sitting until 16th, but unfortunately both then disappeared.

An adult visited Skelton Lake on 15th June; Pugney's CP attracted a first-summer on 17th and a first-summer dropped in at Harden Res on 19th June. Winterset then hosted a single from 20th-22nd June, two visited Skelton Lake on 21st, a single stayed at Fairburn Ings on 25th/26th and finally, two adults were at North Cave Wetlands on 30th June. The latter half of the year was much quieter, starting with an adult at Old Moor on 15th July, followed by two adults at the same location on 1st August and an adult at Farnham GP on 3rd August. In September a party of 20 that flew east over Silverwood Wood, Sheffield on 20th was unusual, with two juveniles at Old Moor the following day. A first-winter visited Winterset on 17th October and the year's last inland record related to two at Rother Valley CP on 1st November.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* **A**

Amber list: scarce visitor in all seasons; has attempted to breed

Breeding mainly in south-east and southern Europe, there has been an expansion north-west in recent years and numbers recorded in the county continue to increase.

An adult remained in residence at Hemlington Lake from the start of the year until March and returned on 22nd July, after which it was reported regularly through to the end of December. Singles appeared outside of the summer months at several sites south of the Tees and up to three (an adult and two first-winters) frequented Scaling Dam/Skelton during October.

The Holbeck area of Scarborough again proved to be the most reliable single site, with six present (four adults and two first-winters) until mid-March. Four summer-plumaged adults were again present on 6th July and were joined by two second-winters from 4th November. Two of the birds sported rings, revealing that the regular Serbian adult, first recorded here as a first-winter in August 2003, was present on 4th November at least and one of the second-winters had been ringed as a chick on 27th May 2008 at Noordelijk Insteekdok in Belgium.

Filey recorded a minimum of ten during the year, with an unusual mid-summer presence including an adult and first-summer from 30th June through to 5th July. Flamborough logged a record year after the first on 22nd July; it proved impossible to estimate how many individuals were involved, with daily records from 23rd August to 15th October. Four first-winters were present off the Headland on several dates in September, but four on 1st October included an adult and a second-winter. A single south at Spurn on 28th February proved to be the first there, although there were only sporadic records until July. Up to five were present from 16th August, with ever increasing numbers during September building to an Observatory record of 12 on 21st September; the last record entered the log on 30th November. Even larger aggregations were noted immediately north of the recording area, with three in fields between Kilnsea and Easington on 14th August, increasing to 12 at the month end and an impressive 24 on 6th September.

Many inland waters recorded singles, but of more interest was a series of records involving either paired adults or second-summer. Two adults visited Old Moor on 2nd May, before Winterset hosted a pair on 30th May. In addition, North Cave attracted two second-summer on 18th/19th June followed by an adult on 20th/21st June. Elsewhere, two adults were at Pulfin & High Eske on 21st/22nd July. However, Swillington Ings again proved to be the main focus during the summer months; an adult returned to the Black-headed Gull colony on 1st March, with a second adult on a different island from 20th. Both adults appeared to be holding territories; only one attracted a mate and one was sitting by early April. Unfortunately the probable nest was soon obscured by vegetation, so it was again impossible to prove successful breeding. On 2nd May four adults were certainly present, but none were seen at Swillington after early July.

A presumed Mediterranean x Black-headed Gull hybrid made sporadic appearances at Old Moor from 6th April - 20th May.

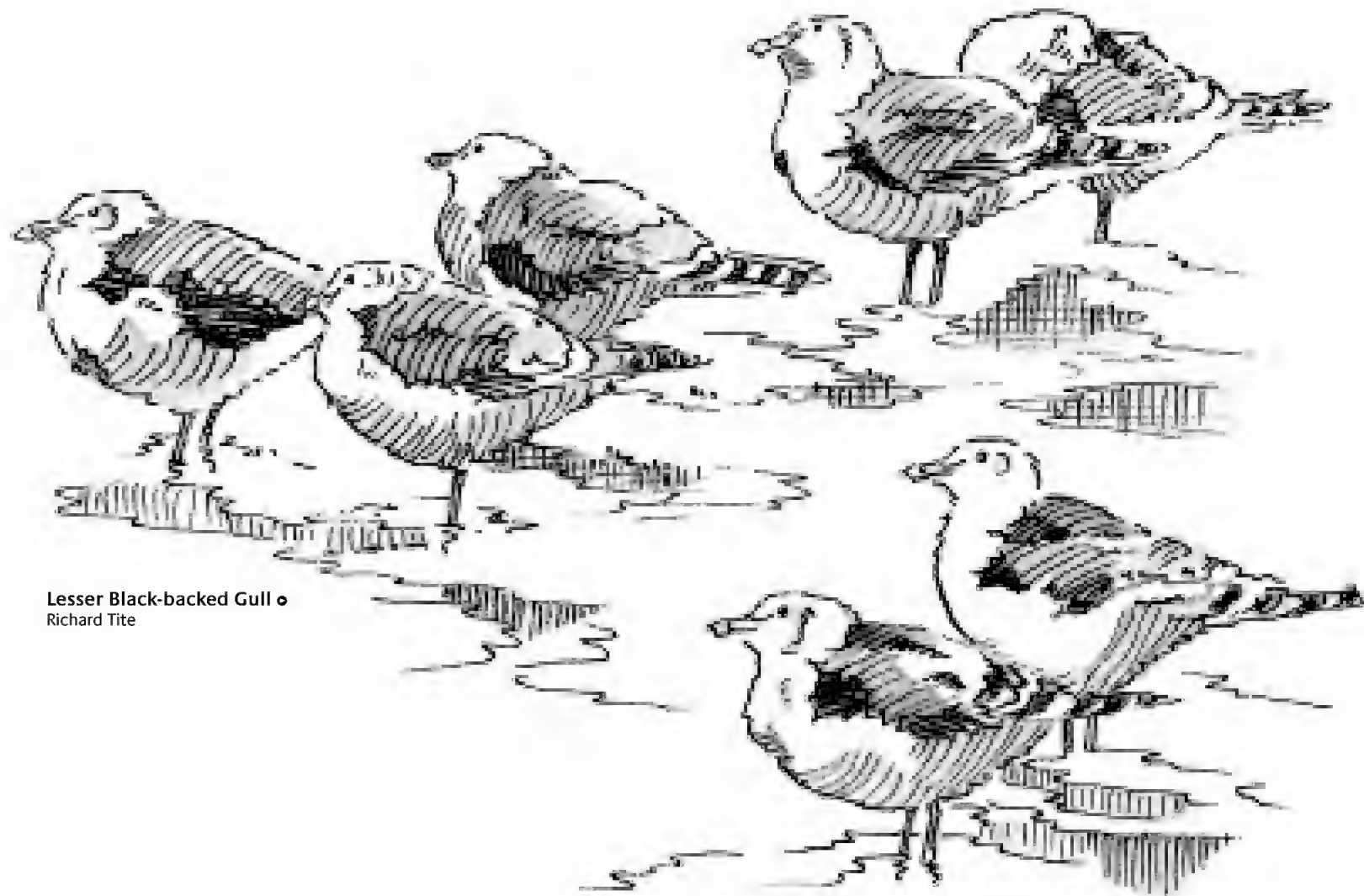
COMMON GULL *Larus canus* **A**

Amber list: common to abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 13/211

Breeds in Scotland, and only common in Yorkshire outside the breeding season when continental migrants from Scandinavia and the Baltic states arrive from September through to December to winter. European breeding populations have been declining.

The roost at Tophill Low held 14,400 on 7th January with numbers peaking towards the end of February, with 16,500 present on 23rd before decreasing to 10,000 by 1st March. In the latter period, 6000 roosted at Tophill on 1st November burgeoning to 10,120 on 22nd November. December counts included 7000 at Tophill on 6th and 8700 on 27th December. The other main roost was located much further west at Eccup Res and held an impressive 17,500 during January and February, before numbers dropped to 11,000 during March. After subdued tallies over the summer, 6000 had returned by September, followed by 13,000 in October, 15,000 in November and finally 17,500 again roosted at Eccup during December. Other inland waters held less substantial numbers, with Southfield Res recording maxima of 650 during January; spring passage was evident there, with 900 on 5th March increasing to 1600 by 10th. Further west the roost at Winterset Res peaked at 1200 on 24th January, with 850 in the roost a week later. The series of wetlands around Nosterfield attracted 3000 at Lingham Lake, 2000 there on 1st February, while 1000 roosted on Flasks Lake during mid February. In keeping with several sites, an early spring passage was discernable at Nosterfield in mid-March, with 2000 on Lingham Lake on 14th, a peak of 2500 present on 16th and finally, 2000 roosting on 21st.

Coastal passage was illustrated by 303 heading south at Spurn on 8th March and a roost containing 2000 at Hunmanby Gap on 12th March. Numbers remained high until mid-April, with 680 logged at Flamborough on 12th and 650 feeding in Filey Bay on 18th April. After a lull during the summer, counts once again increased from September, with 1500 roosting on Wykeham Lakes on 5th and southbound passage included 70 passing Long Nab on 24th and 294 off Flamborough on 20th September. The Flamborough seawatch team then recorded 615 off the Headland on 13th October, while the final day of the month produced 140 south at Long Nab and 115 similarly off Filey.



Lesser Black-backed Gull •
Richard Tite

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* A

Amber list: scarce breeding summer visitor; fairly common passage migrant/increasing in winter.

BBS 33/211

The form *graellsii* occasionally breeds in Yorkshire at inland sites and on coastal rooftops in Scarborough, Filey and Bridlington. This race also breeds in Western Europe, Greenland, Iceland and the Faeroes as well as northern Britain, and migrates through the county to winter to the south, usually returning in March. The race *intermedius* breeds in Denmark, southern Norway and Sweden and occurs in small numbers on passage. Nationally the population has shown a 31% decrease since 1999.

Breeding attempts continued to increase along the eastern fringe, with at least two breeding pairs in Scarborough, another two in Filey, a pair raised two young on Driffield Post Office and another pair fledged two chicks at Hornsea Mere, where they raised one young in 2008. The factory roofs in the west of Hull appeared to be particularly favoured, with 23 pairs raising at least 11 young; in addition, another pair raised young near the River Hull in the city.

One of few waters in the east capable of sustaining a substantial roost, Wykeham Lakes hosted 60 on 4th August, before numbers rose to 900 on 5th September. However, counts on the Humber off Spurn peaked in mid-summer, with 200 in late June rising to 300 by 9th July. Further inland the recently restored peat milling fields on Hatfield Moors attracted substantial numbers: 110 on 8th May increased to 200 on 29th May and 400 on 23rd June. There was a substantial increase from 300 on 3rd July to 2000 on 23rd July; the roost on Hatfield Moors then increased further to peak at 4000 on 15th August and still contained 3000 on 27th September. Thereafter there was a general decline, with 1060 present on 18th October and only 500 remaining on 8th November. Immediately south of Doncaster, Potteric Carr pulled in 1150 on 5th November, which represented a site record. In the south-west of the county the roost at Redmires Res peaked slightly later, with 335 present on 3rd September, rising to 475 by 15th of the same month, and then reaching a maximum of 560 on 12th October; 295 remained on 29th October. Immediately to the north, Langsett Res held 900 on 19th September, while 1200 roosted at Winterset on 11th September, with numbers then decreasing to leave 400 on 25th October. Unusually the highest numbers at Thornton Moor Res occurred during the spring, with 800 present during April, while the autumn maximum of 665 came in August. The various waters around Nosterfield pulled in a significant roost, with 900 on Nosterfield NR on 18th August increasing to 1000 on Lingham Lake by 9th October and numbers reached 2000 on Flasks Lake on 21st October.

Passage at Flamborough peaked during early autumn, with 33 logged on 31st August and 36 on 9th September, which included a high proportion of juveniles moving south. An unprecedented southerly passage took place at Spurn between 26th February and 29th May totaling 1041 – high counts included 71 on 18th May, 134 on 19th, 328 on 20th, 143 on 21st, 72 on 22nd and 74 on 23rd May, with most being sub-adults or immatures. Passage continued to be above average in the second half of the year, with 657 heading south between 17th June and 19th November, with 52 on 24th June, 73 on 26th August, and 47 on 4th September.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* A

Red list and UK BAP subspecies (*argenteus*)

Fairly common resident breeder; common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 24/211

The race *argenteus* breeds in Britain and Ireland, including the Yorkshire coast from where it disperses mostly locally. Distribution in BBS squares represents mostly dispersed non-breeders. A national decrease of 43% since 1999 has led to red list status.

The number nesting on the cliffs in the north was similar to the previous year, with 58 pairs at Hunt Cliff and 425 pairs between Hummersea and Cowbar. At Spurn the usual pair at the Point sat on infertile eggs before abandoning their attempt.

Impressive numbers fed at Seamer Tip throughout, with maxima including 3500 on 19th January and 13th February, before dropping back to 800 on 20th April. Higher counts were obtained during the second winter period, with a best of 4500 on 23rd November. The roost at Wykeham Lakes contained higher numbers during autumn, with 400 on 4th August and 800 present on 5th September, while further south 750 roosted on Hornsea Mere on 17th November. Large numbers were logged on the Humber at Spurn throughout, although the summer months produced lower totals: 1500 during February was the best, with up to 500 present in June and 800 noted during November. Significant counts within the Humberhead Levels involved 1200 in the roost at Southfield Res on 7th January, while Hatfield Moors attracted 1150 on 24th October and 400 were still present on 8th November. Counts at Winterset were again down on previous years, with 250 roosting on 11th January eclipsed by a movement of 650 north on 22nd February; 130 on 27th December constituted the best at the end of the year. Fairburn Ings pulled in 700 on 5th January, but otherwise most large gulls aggregated at nearby Swillington Ings, where an impressive 5000 were present on 28th December. Further north, Bar Lane Quarry attracted 500 on 16th January.

Coastal passage was evident at several locations, with significant counts from Long Nab including 200 south on 12th November, 400 south on 14th November, 600 south on 23rd November and 210 south on 28th November. Passage at Spurn tallied 5811 south, with bests of 1500 on 1st February; 436 on 22nd February; 300 on 26th April; 600 on 20th and 400 on 21st May. In the autumn, 4030 moved south at Spurn from 4th August to 20th December, with highs of 600 on 3rd October and 800 on 30th November.

A presumed Glaucous x Herring Gull hybrid visited Swillington Ings on 30th January and 22nd February.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis* A

Amber list: uncommon summer visitor and migrant

Breeds in southern Europe. Numbers reported from the county seem to have stabilized in recent years now that observers are familiar with its identification, but more are being reported from the north of the county.

Along the coast the usual adult remained in residence at the Tees Barrage until 21st March and then returned for its sixth winter from 17th July, although there were no further reports after October. Although previously scarce along the coast north of Spurn, records are becoming ever more common. In the Scarborough area an adult roosted at Wykeham Lakes on 4th August. Pools near Seamer Tip attracted different juveniles on 11th and 15th August, with another present on 25th August. Fields adjacent to Seamer Carr hosted an adult on 28th September; an adult that flew south past Long Nab on 31st October represented the first for the site. Filey's sole record flew west over Carr Naze on 15th February, but Flamborough produced a better showing. An adult on fields near the village on 31st January was unseasonal, followed by a second-summer on 16th May. More typical were two adults on 12th July, an adult south the next day and a juvenile lingering off the Head on 26th July. In August, an adult went south at Flamborough on 4th and there was a juvenile north on 9th. An adult loafed with the gull flock near Old Fall on 9th September and finally, a first-winter headed south on 19th September. At Spurn an unseasonal adult headed south on 11th January, while up to three featured regularly on the Humber from 16th June to the end of July. Single juveniles flew south on 1st and 11th August, and an adult flew south on 18th. A single frequented the Humber at Spurn on 21st September and finally, one flew north on 19th November.

Further upstream, larger numbers congregated on the Humber at Patrington Haven. A sub-adult from 23rd–27th May was the first, with up to five present during June and 14 during the first week of July. Numbers

then slowly ebbed, with seven present on 7th August and three remained at Patrington Haven on 5th September. Many inland waters were visited, especially in the late summer/early autumn period, with winter records scarce. Wintersetts hosted an adult on 9th January, with a first-winter present on 18th January, when an adult was at Nosterfield Quarry. An adult graced Pugney's CP on 22nd January, with one of similar age on Hatfield Moors on 24th January. Another adult visited Nosterfield Quarry on 22nd February, followed by a single at Swillington Ings on 27th February. At the year-end the roost at Wintersetts pulled in an adult on 27th December. Several locations attracted low single figures in late summer, with the highest numbers on Hatfield Moors; a count of five on 12th June increased to 20 by 15th August and then a record-breaking 60 were present on 22nd August (AM: CCR). Elsewhere, several took up residence within a flock of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in fields at Thorganby from early September and peaked at ten on 3rd October.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans* **A** 2,3,1,1,5
Rare visitor: 17 previous records

Caspian Gull breeds in the Caspian and Black Sea areas, but has recently expanded its breeding range to Poland. It is now regularly reported from south-east England, but in much smaller numbers than *michahellis*.

Now firmly established as an annual visitor to the county, this remains one of the most difficult species to clinch and descriptions continually provide one of the biggest headaches for local recorders. A legacy from 2008, the third-winter remained at Potteric Carr until 18th February. Three new arrivals were all associated with the second week of August and evidenced by a series of photographs and/or video footage. A third-summer spent 90 minutes with other large gulls on Redmires Res on 9th August (RDH). The next day a juvenile dropped in on pools adjacent to Seamer Tip, where it bathed and drank before flying towards the Tip (NWA). With the large gull flock on Hatfield Moors attracting large numbers of Lesser Black-backed and Yellow-legged Gulls, it was clearly worth checking and an adult was picked out on 14th/15th August (JCa: AM: CCR). Subsequently, a juvenile was photographed at Redmires Res on 12th October (RDH) and a first-winter loafed in Scarborough harbour on 25th November (NWA: SW).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* **A**
Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

A winter visitor from Greenland. On the coast, Seamer Carr Tip near Scarborough attracted a second-winter on 10th January, with an adult at Scalby Mills on 16th and a juvenile in a field at Folkton the next day. In February, a first-winter lingered at Seamer Carr Tip from 13th-16th, with another first-winter taking up residence in Scarborough harbour from 14th February-31st March. Scalby Lodge Pond then pulled in a first/second-summer on 24th April. Filey's sole record related to a single at the Brigg on 19th February, while Flamborough hosted a first-winter on 16th March.

In the York area, a second-winter was at Knapton on 5th January, an adult frequented Harewood Whin Tip, Rufforth on 15th February, first- and second-winters were at the same site on 24th February and the second-winter again roosted at Wheldrake on 28th February. Finally, a second-year roosted at Wheldrake Ings from 10th-17th April and also visited a flash near the A64 south of York during the same period.

The gull roost at Southfield Res contained a first-winter on 8th and 15th February and there were no further records until an exceptionally late second-calendar year flew east on 31st May; presumably having been present days earlier at Swillington Ings. A first-winter made sporadic visits to Potteric Carr and fields near Bawtry from 11th/15th January, with a different first-winter at Potteric Carr on 25th January.

Shirecliffe Landfill site attracted a first-winter on 8th January and a second-winter roosted at Wintersetts on February 7th; a first-winter then flew north over the same site on February 22nd.

The main areas of activity were concentrated in the Leeds and Harrogate areas, both of which had better than average years, in contrast to the rest of the county. Two first-winters flew over Rodley NR on 17th January, providing the first record for the reserve. Following a first-winter at Swillington Ings from 18th January, two were present in the month's final week with three (a second-winter and two first-winters) present on 1st February. A combination of these ages was then noted on sporadic dates at either Swillington or Skelton Lake through until 12th April. In addition, Swillington hosted an adult on 7th March and a new second-winter appeared the next day. Swillington's last record of the first period related to a second-calendar year on May 28th. Additional sightings in the Leeds area included a first-winter at Eccup Res on 15th and a first-winter at Woodlesford on 11th April. At the year-end, a third-winter roosted at Swillington Ings from 19th December through to the end of the month.

In the Harrogate area an adult visited Bar Lane Quarry on 8th and 16th January, Flasks Lake on 11th, Lingham Lake on 18th and Allerton Park Tip on 23rd. A first-winter joined the Lingham roost on 1st February, with

possibly the same at Allerton Park Tip on 7th. In March a first-winter again roosted at Lingham on 14th, whilst a second-winter did the same at Bar Lane Quarry on 21st and 25th. On 2nd April a first-winter flew from Farnham GP to roost at Bar Lane Quarry and possibly the same fed on Allerton Park Tip three days later. Further north, an adult roosted at Lingham Lake on 9th April and a first-winter dropped in at Flasks Lake on 14th. The only record at the year-end referred to a first-winter at Allerton Park Tip on 8th December.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* **A**
Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

This species breeds in Iceland and on islands east to the Russian coast, and has in the past been more common than the smaller Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*, particularly on the coast, but recently this has not been the case.

South Gare's only record related to a first-winter on 24th March, while further south a first-winter was in the Seamer Carr area on 4th/5th January, with a second-winter south off Cromer Point, Scarborough on 16th January. First-winters were then observed at Seamer Carr Tip on 16th February and in Scarborough harbour on 21st. Flamborough only had three records, all second-winters and likely to be the same as the Bridlington individual: on 4th and 28th February and again on 2nd March. Presumably the same second-winter spent the period from 27th January-22nd February patrolling the beach between Sewerby and Barmston, while at the year-end a second-winter roosted on Hornsea Mere on 29th December. An adult headed south at Spurn on 2nd February, with an immature also south there on 1st March. In the second winter period a first-winter flew south on 20th and 28th November and a similar aged individual lingered at Spurn on 29th December.

Tophill Low attracted first-winters on 7th January and one flew south there on 21st November, while a single tracked east over Goole on 16th January and a first-winter visited Southfield Res on 26th March; the sole record there during the year. In the York area, a juvenile was noted sporadically either at Harewood Whin Tip, Rufforth or on Wheldrake Ings from 25th January to 15th March; it was joined by a second-winter at the Tip on 24th February and the latter also roosted at Wheldrake four days later.

A first-winter fed over a landfill site at Stainforth on 26th March, with presumably the same relocated at a landfill site near Carcroft on 30th March. A first-winter headed north-east over Edderthorpe on New Year's Day, a second-winter went west over Blackmoorfoot Res on 21st February and a first-winter at Pugney's CP on December 28th were isolated records, helping to illustrate the species' scarcity.

Most activity was focused east of Leeds, with the Swillington area enhancing its reputation as the county's premier white-winged gull venue. After a single at Swillington Ings on 1st January, a first-winter was present on 17th and a second-winter the following day. Up to two second-winters then featured regularly from 4th-22nd February. A first-year on 14th March preceded a second/third-year on 29th/30th March, another first-winter was present on 12th April and finally, a first-summer on April 19th was the last. Several sightings from Skelton Lake undoubtedly referred to some of the Swillington individuals, although an adult on 14th April was certainly different. In addition, a single dropped in at Fairburn Ings on 14th March and a second/third-year frequented Newsam Green Tip on 13th April. In the latter half of the year an adult flew west over Swillington Ings on 16th October and a first-winter was at the same site on 27th December.

In the Harrogate area a second-winter fed on Allerton Park Tip on 7th January, followed by a different second-winter there sporadically from 13th-23rd January. A first-winter also roosted on Lingham Lake on 1st February. Finally, a flooded field three miles south of Boroughbridge attracted a flock of large gulls that contained a second-year on 16th April.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* **A**
Amber list: fairly common passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding resident. BBS 5/211

The declining British population breeds on northern and western coasts. Present throughout due to summering immatures and wintering adults, probably from Scandinavia.

Very few inland waters still hold appreciable numbers, although the roost at Tophill Low contained 60 on 7th January and 300 on 25th October. At Hornsea Mere 120 roosted on 17th January, while 430 were present there on 26th December. In the Humberhead Levels, Southfield Res pulled in 535 on 7th January, while 470 roosted on 30th December. Orgreave Lakes was the most productive water in the Sheffield area, attracting 110 on 17th January. Further north Fairburn Ings again proved to be a favoured location, although 650 on 5th January was an exception, with most counts during the month in double-figures. Autumn passage was also evident through Fairburn, with 250 present during September/October, decreasing to 200 in November, before falling away towards the end of the year.

Numbers along the South Tees peaked early on at 142 in March, but increased substantially during the second winter period, with 303 in November rising to 570 during December. Further south 200 fed at Seamer Carr Tip on 19th January, with a more concerted build-up along the Scarborough coastline taking place from early September, when 900 congregated on the rocks at Ravenscar on 6th September. Seamer Carr Tip again attracted considerable numbers in the second winter period with 850 present on 23rd November. September and October provided the largest counts at Filey and Flamborough, with respective maxima of 230 on 4th October and 730 on 28th October.

Coastal passage was evident at Long Nab, where 250 headed north on 17th October, 680 flew south on 14th November and 100 headed south on 23rd November. Passage at Spurn in the first half of the year was relatively subdued, with 380 tracking south from 10th January and 17th April, with a best of 210 on 1st February. In the autumn, 1068 flew south between 15th August and 7th December, with the highest count consisting of 150 on 3rd September.

The origins of some of the individuals that winter in the county was illustrated by two ringing recoveries: one dead at Tophill Low on 9th October had been ringed as a chick at Mandal, S. Norway on 25th June 2006; another discovered dead on Filey Brigg on 30th November had also been ringed as a chick at Kjellingengen, Mandal, S. Norway on 2nd July 2009.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons* **A**

Amber list: scarce and localised breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

The nominate race breeding in Britain and Ireland winters off the coast of Africa.

In the north of the county ten graced South Gare on 10th May, while the same location hosted small parties of adults with young on 16th and 24th July. Filey only logged two records; a single south on 10th April followed by two south on 21st May. Similarly, Flamborough only fared better in terms of numbers, with five south on 25th April and 11 south on 3rd August the sole records.

Spurn recorded its earliest ever when one was on the Humber on 10th April. A best of 73 on 24th May was surpassed by an unprecedented movement on 29th May when 238 were logged, including 188 heading south during the evening; Spurn's previous best related to 150 in May 1950. Recorded throughout the summer, the last were two on 1st September.

The first returned to Beacon Lagoons on 22nd April, when a pair displayed over the pools. Numbers steadily grew to 72 on 15th May and eventually 26 pairs attempted to breed. Unfortunately, despite the erection of an electric fence and fine weather at the start of June, the colony suffered on 8th June when a flock of Carrion Crows took all the eggs, in addition to eggs from two pairs of Ringed Plovers and a pair of Oystercatchers. Although several pairs relaid, a combination of further predation and high tide spray during strong north-easterly winds, ensured complete failure. There were no breeding attempts on the Point at Spurn this year.

A colour-ringed adult that appeared at Old Moor on 13th May roosted overnight before departing the following day. Singles then appeared at Potteric Carr and at Winterset on 14th May; the latter arrived at 0735hrs and finally left at 0635hrs the following day, the first extended stay at the site since one remained for several days in August 1876. The mini-influx was also reflected further north, with one at Flasks Lake, Nosterfield on 14th/15th May. Two then dropped in at Swillington Ings on 17th May, but soon departed west, while a single visited Bolton Ings on 19th May. Southfield Res attracted two on 3rd June, while the year's last inland record referred to a single at Winterset on 15th July.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida* **A**

0,0,1,0,4

Vagrant; 11 previous records (13 birds)

It breeds locally in southern Europe and North Africa and discontinuously eastwards to China. Those breeding in Europe winter in Africa.

Swillington Ings attracted three on 24th May (DIH: JMa: TV *et al.*). That they shared the site with a Collared Pratincole ensured a large number of subsequent visitors, many of whom were able to admire the huge scale of habitat creation on this burgeoning wetland reserve for the first time. The party split the following day, with a single relocating to the western end of Fairburn Ings, from where it commuted between there and Swillington until 29th May. The remaining duo appeared over Wombwell Ings mid-afternoon on 25th before moving onto Broomhill Flash at 1910hrs (DMW *et al.*). Although they roosted on the tern rails at dusk, both were absent the next morning. Incredibly another then appeared at Staveley NR on 24th June; although its stay was relatively brief, it was photographed before its departure (MCa *et al.*). The recent upsurge in records continues, with the Swillington party drawing parallel with the four that appeared at Lakeside/Potteric Carr in May 2004.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* **A**

Amber list: uncommon passage migrant in varying numbers

The commonest of the marsh terns; it nests across Europe (not Britain) and winters in Africa.

The first headed east with Arctic Terns over Spurn on 24th April, followed by an additional five similarly east over the same site and a single at Ingbirchworth Res the next day. A widespread influx occurred on 13th May including: seven on Hornsea Mere, four at both Hatfield Moors, Lakeside, Sunk Island and Thrybergh Res, three at Southfield Res and Winterset, two at both Nosterfield NR and North Cave Wetlands and singles visited Potteric Carr, Wombwell Ings, Swillington Ings and Snaygill, with possibly the same at Chelker Res. An impressive 46 headed out east over Spurn on 14th May, with presumably 33 east past Sunk Island involving many of the same. Also on 14th May small parties continued to be reported from inland waters with: eight at Winterset, seven at Fairburn Ings, six at Lingham Lake, five at both Swillington Ings and Southfield Res, four at Edderthorpe, Castle Howard and Pugney's CP and three at Bar Lane Quarry and on Hornsea Mere; in addition, singles visited Farnham and Hay-a-Park GPs, Thrybergh Res and Leeshaw. Numbers dropped on 15th May, with eight passing Sunk Island, four remaining at Winterset, two at Lingham Lake, Staveley NR and Fairburn Ings and singles at Malham Tarn, Potteric Carr, Southfield Res and Spurn. Singles were noted at: Farnham GP and Bar Lane Quarry on 17th; visited Hatfield Moors and Pugney's GP on 24th May and finally, Farnham GP on 25th May. After three at Winterset on 30th May, duos were noted at Winterset, Old Moor, Tophill Low, Southfield Res and east over Spurn on 31st May. June opened with five through Sunk Island, four at Southfield Res and singles at Old Moor, Swillington Ings, Winterset and Fairburn Ings on 1st; two then headed south-west over Staveley NR on 5th June, when two also visited Swillington Ings.

A single lingered at Fairburn Ings during the first week of July, followed by singles at Winterset and Pugney's CP on 9th July. In the latter half of the month Hornsea Mere hosted one from 15th-17th July; one tracked north off Marine Drive, Scarborough on 18th and one flew south at Spurn on 30th July. Activity increased during August and low single figures were recorded on several dates during evening tern movements off Spurn. The first week also witnessed two at Southfield Res on 1st August, Brough Airfield Marsh attracted a single on 5th, and singles appeared at Old Moor and Flamborough on 7th August. Singles were recorded at Flamborough on 17th and then again off there and Filey on 20th, before another lone individual dropped in at Pulfin & High Eske the following day. Two were off Flamborough and a single appeared at Filey on 22nd August, with six at Swillington Ings the next day and singles at Pulfin & High Eske and Swillington Ings on 24th August (the latter staying until 28th). The evening roost movement off Spurn contained eight on 25th August, when a single was also noted off Filey. The month ended with one at Tophill Low from 28th August-3rd September (with two on 1st September) and six at Spurn and one off Grimston on 29th August.

Seven at Spurn on 4th September represented the month's largest party, with singles off Grimston on 5th and Flamborough on 9th; Spurn's last was logged on 20th September. The Flamborough seawatch team recorded a single on 4th October, one headed north off Marine Drive, Scarborough on 8th October and finally, Winterset attracted the year's last on 10th October.



Whiskered Tern •
Jack Ashton-Booth

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* **A** 0,3,0,0,1
Rare migrant; 66 previous records (61 birds)

Breeds from eastern Europe through to central Asia and China. European birds winter in Africa south of the Sahara. Hornsea Mere re-enforced its reputation as one of the premier sites within the county, when it attracted a juvenile on 27th August (RL *et al.*); the fourth site record this decade. There has been an upsurge of records over the last ten years, so it is somewhat surprising that this is the first in the county since three individuals in 2006.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* **A**
Amber list: fairly common passage migrant and non-breeding summer visitor. BBS 1/204
The currently increasing western European population of the nominate race winters off West Africa.

Scarborough recorded the first, when a single headed north past Long Nab on 1st April. Numbers remained low along the Scarborough coastline until 57 flew past Long Nab on 11th May. Counts then increased through July, with 40 on 17th increasing to 103 on 26th and 173 the next day. The highest numbers were recorded during August, with a best of 255 off Long Nab on 10th. After 94 off Marine Drive on 4th September, counts quickly reduced; Scarborough's last tracked north at Long Nab on 4th October. Filey's first record related to nine south on 10th April and numbers remained in low double figures until 57 were logged on 13th June. The Brigg roost attracted 146 on 28th July, but surprisingly, numbers then ebbed, with an August maximum of just 81 on 9th August; none were recorded off the Filey coastline after 15th September. Unsurprisingly given the observer effort, higher numbers were recorded off Flamborough, but counts were still a fraction of those witnessed 20 years ago. June's maximum referred to 213 passing the Headland on 13th, followed by a July best of 175 on 25th (out of a monthly total of 668 bird/days). Matters improved in August, with 351 logged on 15th (monthly total of 2938 bird/days) and 209 tracked past on 5th September (947 bird/days in September). At Spurn, evening roost movements started from late July and included 1050 on 30th. Treble-figure counts were recorded almost daily in August, with bests of 687 on 2nd and 1200 on 15th. Numbers at Spurn then dropped sharply, with just low double figures until the month end; the last were three on 24th October.

The first inland record related to a single that visited Thrybergh CP briefly on 4th April before departing east and a single then headed north over the same site on 8th. Two flew west over Swillington Ings on 10th April, with another passing Sunk Island the next day. In the latter half of April, Fairburn Ings hosted a single on 21st and one headed east over Potteric Carr on 28th. The only May records related to singles at Potteric Carr on 1st and over Wheldrake Ings on 18th. Summer produced a single north over Southfield Res on 4th June and another visited Old Moor on 24th July. Seven at Faxfleet on 7th August flew off north-west immediately before dusk. Two headed north with Black-headed Gulls over Pulfin & High Eske on 23rd August, while further inland, a single also tracked south over Soil Hill/Thornton Moor on the same date. Four visited Edderthorpe on 5th September; a lone individual flew north over Southfield Res on 15th September and, finally, a juvenile frequented Scaling Dam on 12th October.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* **A**
Amber list: scarce breeding summer visitor and fairly common passage migrant. BBS 1/211
British birds of this Holarctic species winter along the West African coast. The small breeding population in the county has increased, taking the opportunities offered of newly formed islands and tern rafts on reserves.

Site & Date	First date	Number of pairs	Young fledged	Last date
Fairburn Ings	6/4	Eight	unknown	11/9
Farnham GP	22/4	Seven	Nine	12/9
Millfield Lagoons, near Wakefield	–	One	unknown	–
North Cave	15/4	One	Three	21/8
Old Moor	11/4	One	One	–
Pugney's CP	9/4	Three	None	9/9
Ripon City Quarry	–	One	Two	–
Rodley NR	27/4	One	Three	1/8
Southfield Res	4/4	Two	Two	15/10
Staveley NR	24/4	Two	One	31/8
Swillington Ings	12/4	Fourteen	14+	10/9
Thrybergh CP	13/4	Three	Five	10/9
Tophill Low	20/4	Four/Five	11	28/8
Winterset	16/4	Thirteen	None	9/9

Pairs failed to breed at Worsbrough for the first time since 1990 and again at Otley Wetlands where a pair has been successful in recent years. Unfortunately, the male of the pair at North Cave Wetlands died when the chicks were ten days old. However, another male (that had previously attempted to kill the chicks) then assisted the female in feeding the young; all three successfully fledged.

Along the Scarborough coastline the first two headed north on 19th April and then only recorded in low numbers during the spring/early summer. Sixty flew past Marine Drive on 5th August, followed by 240 north off Long Nab the following day and 325 similarly on 10th August. To the south, the roost on Filey Brigg was smaller than in recent years, peaking at only 81 on 9th August; this suggested the offshore waters offered far fewer feeding opportunities, therefore failing to attract post-breeding aggregations. Low numbers were also the norm at Flamborough, whose first record related to four on 10th April. A July maximum of 25 on 19th was poor, with numbers increasing in the second week of August, reaching a best of 507 on 12th. September's high related to 127 on 5th, with nine logged off the Headland on 2nd October.

In keeping with previous years, by far the largest counts came from Spurn and referred to pre- and post-roost movements from late July to the end of September. This included a record-breaking total at the end of August; it is interesting to speculate where these birds were feeding, as counts from further north were relatively poor. Spurn's first tracked south on 10th April, but spectacular numbers established from early August and included: 20,400 on 11th August; 17,000 on 22nd and 29th, with six other counts over 10,000. On a few mornings large counts were also obtained as terns headed either north or east from the roost and included 15,000 on 20th August and 29,500 the following day. However, all such counts were eclipsed when a record 41,000 headed south during the evening of 28th August. September still provided several noteworthy totals with: 5750 on 4th, 3000 on 12th and 1000 on 22nd. Thereafter, there were double-figure counts until 5th October, before late singles on 20th October and 14th November; the latter the latest ever at Spurn.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce coastal migrant, most frequent in late summer/autumn
A widespread species that breeds in the Americas, north-west Europe, southern Africa, through the Indian Ocean to Australasia.

Two at South Gare on 16th July were the first, followed by a single south at Spurn on 30th July. An adult headed north past Flamborough on 6th August and an adult and two juveniles visited Filey Brigg the next day. A single flew east over the Warren at Spurn on 10th August, an adult went south off Flamborough on 14th, when a regular run of records from Spurn began. In total 71 bird/days were logged at Spurn, up until the last two on 7th September, and included bests of nine on 24th August and 4th September. Elsewhere two adults flew south at Flamborough and three adults headed south off Grimston on 17th August, and one tracked past Filey two days later. An adult and a juvenile flew south at Grimston on 23rd August, followed by an adult and two juveniles south there the next day and then three lingered around Filey Brigg on 25th August. Further north, an adult and juvenile rested on rocks off South Gare on 26th August, although the area is now subjected to increasing levels of disturbance, precluding a build-up of terns. An adult accompanied by a juvenile flew north past Long Nab on 5th and, finally, an adult headed in a similar direction at Flamborough on 7th September.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* **A**
Amber list: uncommon to fairly common passage migrant and non-breeding summer visitor. BBS 1/211
Breeds in northern Europe and the Arctic and winters at sea, making a journey between the two polar regions. Migrates across the UK in spring, many leaving via the Humber.

Both Scarborough and Filey recorded very low numbers during the year and there were just two spring records: a single north at Filey on 30th April, followed by five over the Country Park on 14th May. Autumn passage at the two sites was confined to the 8th July and 31st October period, with a juvenile north off Filey on the latter date; the best counts related to just 23 south at Filey on 6th August and six passing Long Nab on 5th September. Flamborough recorded 277 bird/days during the year, disappointing, but still an improvement on the 171 bird/days logged the previous year. Passage started with two off the Headland on 10th April, but only a handful was then recorded until July, when an isolated peak of 181 was logged on 11th. August's best was a mere 13 on 2nd and numbers slowly ebbed until the last in mid-October.

At Spurn 794 flew east between the first 18 noted on 12th April and the last on 31st May and included three treble-figure counts: 195 on 24th (when 180 flew east past Sunk Island), 198 on 28th April and 255 on 14th May. Sunk Island recorded 59 through on 13th May, increasing to 106 east the following day. Low numbers then re-appeared at Spurn from 23rd June with almost daily records from 4th July to mid-September. Passage peaked during August, with 85 on 11th and 43 on 24th; the last entered the log on 1st November.

The first to grace inland waters appeared over Potteric Carr on 14th April, followed the next day by seven at nearby Lakeside, three at Thrybergh CP and singles at Fairburn Ings, Winterset, Swillington Ings and Pugney’s CP. An impressive 96 overflowed Fairburn Ings on 27th April, but such numbers were not picked up at other sites. The next movement occurred in the middle of May, starting with 24 over Swillington Ings on 13th May, 21 headed through Winterset and 27 tracked north over Rother Valley CP on 14th May and finally, ten visited Lingham Lake on 16th May. Inland, autumn passage tends to involve much lower numbers, so 38 heading south over Lemonroyd were noteworthy.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* **A**

Amber list: fairly common coastal breeder and passage migrant, less so in winter

A common seabird of the northern temperate oceans. Yorkshire continues to play host to the largest Guillemot colony in England, stretching from Flamborough Head northwards to Scarborough. Over 59,000 individuals were counted in the Flamborough Head/Bempton Cliffs Special Protection Area (SPA) in 2008; the success of the Yorkshire colonies is in stark contrast to the fortunes in the Northern Isles and the north-west coast of Scotland, where populations are undergoing dramatic declines.

During the early months hundreds fed off Filey Brigg and Flamborough Head. Whilst on most days none occupied the breeding ledges, occasionally tens of thousands would return to the breeding cliffs only to depart a day or two later; the frequency of the visits and the proportion of time spent on the cliffs increased towards the end of March. Despite these vast arrivals, the numbers reported from nearby seawatching sites were typically low during the early months, with maxima of 748 south at Spurn on 2nd January, 286 south there on 11th February and a mere 20 passing Scarborough on 25th January and 1st March. By the end of March adults were ever present in on the cliffs.

The next whole colony count of the Flamborough/Bempton Cliffs SPA is unlikely to be undertaken until 2013 to coincide with the next UK-wide seabird census. Therefore, population monitoring plots were established for the first time, providing a baseline for future comparison. Guillemot breeding productivity was 0.78 young fledged per pair, higher than the national average (RSPB). Furthermore, the first sea-based count of the Filey Brigg-Cayton Bay colony was undertaken on 20th June, with 2695 individuals present.

This year the number killed in salmon and sea trout fixed nets at Filey Bay in June was reduced, following adoption of a voluntary code of conduct by the netmen. Discussions continue between the RSPB, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the fishermen to try and ensure the fishery is sustainable and minimises the by-catch and threat to this internationally important breeding population.

There were few reports away from the colonies, suggesting inshore feeding and movements are not significant, with most feeding offshore. Exceptions included 200 off Barmston on 10th June, 300 north past Scarborough in one hour on 4th June and 450 heading north there in 90 minutes on 7th June. Most had left the cliffs by early July, although occasional reports of males and juveniles continued through July and August, with a ‘pair’ below Flamborough Head on 11th September exceptionally late.

Significant autumn movements were few, with a total of 1200 ‘auks’, likely to be this species, north at Long Nab on 14th September. The number of reports then increased, with a maximum of 3115 ‘auks’ off Spurn on 9th October. Counts from Flamborough of 8710 on 29th and 12,652 on 30th December were likely to have involved birds returning to the colony, as hundreds were reported on the cliffs at Filey and feeding off Filey Brigg at the same time.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* **A**

Amber list: fairly common coastal breeder/passage migrant, less common in winter

Breeds in the North Atlantic: the subspecies *islandica* found in Britain winters further south.

In contrast to the previous species, return trips to the breeding colonies in January/February are a rare spectacle and there were few records during this period. Most reports in the early months were restricted to odd seawatch sightings at Flamborough, including four on 4th January, and also at Filey and Spurn, where up to six were seen on 12 dates in the first quarter. An oiled individual was found dead at Filey on 2nd February. Many started to return to the breeding grounds in early March, with 80 on the sea off Filey’s North Cliffs on 11th March, increasing to 100 by 29th, and an impressive 650 by 11th April. Similarly, the local breeders gathered off Boulby Cliffs from March, with ten there on 10th, increasing to 58 on 28th April. Away from the colonies, 300 flew past Long Nab on 18th April, whilst Spurn recorded the highest spring count on record with 249 on 26th May. These counts reflect the ongoing increase in the Yorkshire breeding population and provide an interesting insight into their potential feeding areas, as does the presence of 200 feeding off Barmston on 10th June.

Again a whole colony count of the Flamborough/Bempton SPA is unlikely to be repeated until 2013; therefore population monitoring plots were established. Razorbill breeding productivity was 0.6 fledged young per pair, higher than the national average (RSPB).

The first sea-based whole colony count of the Filey-Cayton Bay colony was undertaken on 20th June, revealing the presence of over 613 individuals (RSPB). The breeding colony at Boulby Cliffs showed a moderate increase, with 28 pairs present on 22nd June. One juvenile with an attendant adult was off Skinningrove on 7th August, but this probably doesn’t reflect the success of the colony, which seems to be more than holding its own.

At Filey, a voluntary code of conduct was agreed between local netmen, the RSPB, Natural England and the Environment Agency; this required nets to be withdrawn at night and attended throughout the day in June and resulted in a substantial reduction in deaths caused by drowning in the nets.

Most departed the colonies by early July, after which there were few records until September, when there were 2475 off Flamborough on 13th September and later 4150 on 1st October. Numbers elsewhere were much lower, with a peak count at Atwick of 68 on 18th September and 19 at Spurn on 29th September, with 13 logged there on 6th October.

Reports were few from November to the year-end, with a peak of 40 heading south at Filey on 14th November. Up to three were recorded on four dates in November/December at Spurn, with three between Atwick and Barmston on 11th December. At Filey up to two fed in the Bay with hundreds of Guillemot throughout December.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grille* **A**

2,0,6,1,3

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant

This circumpolar species breeds in northern Scotland where it is mostly sedentary, with only limited dispersal from its breeding colonies.

There were three single seawatch records and none chose to linger. One flew south past Flamborough on 3rd September (AMa), another headed north off Scarborough on 9th November (NWA) and finally, a single tracked south at Filey on 28th November (JS).

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* **A**

Uncommon to fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor

This species breeds principally in Svalbard and north-west Greenland, wintering in the north Atlantic and the northern sector of the North Sea. The numbers recorded each year will clearly involve some double counting.

It was a disappointing year, following several large autumn influxes in recent years. There were no reports in the initial six months and the first record of 18 north at Flamborough on 17th October represented the year’s highest count. This was followed by one over Chalk Bank, Spurn the following day and four north at Spurn on 9th November. A mini-influx on 30th November included 13 that circled Filey Bay, six north at Spurn, four north at Flamborough and two that headed south off Filey Brigg. December’s only reports involved ten north at Spurn on 1st December, with subsequent singles at Flamborough on 12th and 21st December; the last was found dead at the same locality on 27th December.

Inland one was picked up dead at Sykes, Ryedale on 11th November.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* **A**

Amber list: fairly common breeder and common passage migrant

Breeds on the coasts of northern France, Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia, Iceland and the Arctic. Winters well out to sea.

This species is largely absent from the Yorkshire coast during the early months of the year, with the first returning off Spurn on 19th February, followed by small numbers off Flamborough.

The first influx occurred on 1st March when 510 flew north past Flamborough Head; the same day produced 50 on the sea off Filey North Cliffs, where numbers increased to 70 by the end of the month. This represents almost twice the number reported in 2008 and may indicate the potential breeding population of the Filey-Cayton Bay colony. However, only 19 were present on the cliffs on 20th June when the whole colony count was undertaken. Unfortunately, because the breeding birds nest in holes and cracks in the cliffs, it is very difficult to obtain accurate counts whilst the birds are attending their nest sites. No counts or monitoring were carried out during the breeding season at the Flamborough/Bempton Cliffs SPA.

Late June and early August typically produces the highest counts, when the number of breeding birds is supplemented by the arrival of prospecting non-breeders. This year 7400 were counted off Flamborough on 22nd June, 3920 on 16th, 2662 on 29th July and 4250 on 2nd August. Much smaller numbers were also recorded off Filey, with a maximum of 904 south on 21st June – many of these were carrying fish and presumably returning to Bempton and Flamborough. The last report of adults attending the Filey colony came on 6th August.

There were few reports away from the colonies during the summer, with occasional records from Scarborough and Spurn and, unusually, two on the Humber off Spurn on 28th June. Following dispersal of the breeding adults, records south of Flamborough included up to three off Spurn on nine dates in September, including a maximum of 23 on 14th September, and up to four on six dates in October. In contrast, there were virtually no records north of the colonies. The year's last related to a single that flew past Spurn on 20th October.

FERAL PIGEON/ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* **AC4**
A common breeding resident in towns and cities and along coastal cliffs

BBS 67/211: -9% (-13) 1995-2009, -24% (+1) 2008-09

Within the UK pure Rock Doves are now confined to the extreme north/north-west. A type that is identical to the ancestral Rock Dove still appears amongst Feral Pigeons in both urban centres and along the coast. Control measures may be having some impact on populations.

Many of the largest counts of what is clearly a very widespread species were in coastal areas. It was described as a common breeding resident in the Scarborough district, with notable counts of 250 at Cromer Point on 26th September and 800 at Scalby on 1st November. The Flamborough Headland extending from Speeton to Flamborough itself held the largest flocks. In September 1390 left the cliff roost site at Speeton on 26th; peak counts at Flamborough included 750 on 30th March and 2500 on 4th October.

The largest flocks elsewhere were 230 at Halifax Bus Station and 250 in the centre of Leeds during September and up to 300 in Ripon during the year.



Rock Dove •
Ray Scally

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* **A**
Amber list: fairly common resident; some passage and immigration

BBS 64/211: +55% (-1) 1995-2009, +58% (+10) 2008-09

Local populations are sedentary, although Scandinavian birds may swell numbers in winter. Although the long-term trend in the county had been upwards from 1994-2004, there has been a fairly steep decline recorded since then, but a substantial increase was noted this year.

As an indication of potential breeding densities, six pairs bred at both Flamborough and Winterset. In the east, Filey hosted 47 on 15th February, with 70 at nearby Reighton on 3rd December.

Within the Harrogate area there were 20 at Staveley NR on 21st September (increasing to 50 on 21st December) and separate flocks of 43 and 29 near Coneythorpe on 28th November. There were records from 31 sites around Halifax, with a best of 25 at Todmorden on 7th March, and 40 flocked at Fairburn Ings in October. Other notable records included 30 at Hatfield Moors in February, 60 at Peat Pits, Sheffield on 21st August, 50 at Stoney Royd on 27th September and at least 100 in a large Woodpigeon flock at Wothersome on 27th October. In November, there were 35 near Edderthorpe during the first week and also up to 54 around Cullingworth.

Only a light spring passage was detected at Spurn, with 77 south between 18th February and 23rd May; but the autumn was especially good, with 671 south between 18th August and 21st December, including a maximum of 211 on 17th November.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* **A**
Abundant and widespread resident and passage migrant/winter visitor
BBS 187/211: +84% (+43) 1995-2009, -13% (-6) 2008-09

Continuing inexorably to increase in range and population (until the unusual decrease this year), this now common urban species is an agricultural pest in many rural areas. The spread of oilseed rape has been shown to promote overwinter survival, and this crop has increased in the east of the county.

At the start of the year 1000 were at Ox Pasture Farm, Scalby Beck on 2nd and an impressive 30,000 flew over Staveley Carrs on 3rd January (rapidly dispersing to leave just 300 by February). Also in January, there were 800 at Carlton Marsh, 700 at Snainton Ings, 2500 at Winterset, 5000 at Selby, 500 at Haigh Woods and 700 at Ulley CP. Notable February maxima included 600 at Ellerburn on 8th, 1000 at Carleton Meadows and 800 at Ashton, whilst in March 2000 gathered at Swinton Ings on 6th.

Only a light spring passage was recorded at Spurn, with 1044 heading south between 19th February and 2nd June, with 185 the best on 8th May.

Very few breeding records were reported, but included 15 pairs at Fairburn Ings, 38 pairs at Tophill Low, 15 pairs at Carlton Marsh and 18 'singing males' at Wharnccliffe Wood. Elsewhere it appears to be increasing in the Scarborough area.

As expected, much higher counts were recorded in the autumn, especially at key inland 'vis mig' sites. The first obvious influx related to 1190 that headed south over Redmires Res on 18th October. The largest movement then took place in the final week of October, starting with 5708 south over Stainburn Moor on 26th October and 3020 south-west over Redmires Res two days later. However, the year's largest movement took place on 29th October, with 2644 south over Stainburn Moor, 7461 south over Oxenhope and 2500 south over Carlton Marsh. Stainburn Moor recorded 715 south on 4th November, followed by 747 similarly over Oxenhope the following day, 513 south at the latter site on 6th, with a further 735 south at Stainburn Moor the next day. The year's final movement took place on 9th November, when 2025 headed south at Stainburn Moor and 1402 did likewise over Oxenhope.

Autumn passage was light at Spurn, with 1313 logged between 4th July and 20th November, with a peak of 510 on 2nd November.

Numbers began to build during the latter part of the year, with 800 at Troutdale in early August. At the end of October 1000 were in the Scalby Lodge area on 31st. In November there were 1200 at Went Ings on 9th, 1500 at Hatfield on 29th and a peak of 1600 at Thorne Moors. The year closed with 500 at Farnham GP, 650 at Beal Carrs and 1000 at Ecclesfield late in the month.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* **A**
Common resident. BBS 102/211: -1% (+27) 1995-2009, +7% (-4) 2008-09

Having arrived in Britain in 1952, this species continues to expand in the north-west of Britain, but its population in Yorkshire is now fairly stable or slightly decreasing since 1998. There was, however, an increase in BBS numbers recorded for the second consecutive year.

Larger flocks in the first quarter included 63 roosting on Clarence Drive, Filey on 2nd January and 42 at Tophill Low the next day, followed by 40 at Hackenthorpe on 4th February and 30 remaining near Thorne Moors during the same month. In addition, North Duffield hosted 30 on 14th May and Fairburn Ings regularly attracted a maximum of 30 during the year.

During the latter part of the year, 40 were in the Park Gate area of Sheffield in late August/early September, 41 assembled on Scalby Mills Road, Scarborough on 22nd September, followed by 60 at Broomhill Flash and 35 at Ashton, Sheffield on 2nd October and 63 at Nunwick on 7th.

November records included 30 at Pulfin & High Eske on 8th, an impressive 217 at Eccup Moor on 10th, 47 at Northowram on 11th and 94 at Cayton Carr on 23rd. At the end of the year, a maximum of 42 congregated on Church Cliff Drive in Filey, 60 gathered at Broomhill Flash and 31 roosted at Tophill Low during December. Further counts towards the end of the year included 70 at both Mickfield and Sherburn-in-Elmet, 40 at Clumpcliffe and up to 35 at Yeadon Tarn.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce and declining breeding summer visitor. BBS 3/211

The West European populations migrate south-west to winter in the drought-stricken Sahel zone. The national population has fallen by 70% since 1994, contracting eastward and southward, and it is becoming increasingly scarce in Yorkshire.

The first appeared at Littlethorpe on 20th April, followed by the next at Sammy’s Point on 25th. In May singles appeared at Went Ings on 1st, Fairburn Ings and Pugney’s CP the next day, Staveley NR on 4th (two) and at Moor Monkton on 10th (two), with an unusual record relating a single on Valley Road, Scarborough with Collared Doves from 9th–11th May. Singles were then noted at Kelk on 10th May, Lingham Lake on 14th, singing at Staveley NR on 15th/16th May, and both Cayton Carr and Potteric Carr on 16th. Flamborough also logged a single on 16th May, followed by two on 20th, and singles on 22nd and 24th May (with one there on 8th August), and Filey’s sole record appeared on 18th May. Additional sightings in the latter half of May included singles at Beal Carrs on 20th, Grimston the next day, North Cave Wetlands on 24th May (with singles also present on 27th June and 21st August) and at Stainton on 31st.

The forests fringing the southern edge of the North Yorkshire Moors remain a stronghold and it is encouraging to report that a survey showed that the population increased there between 1997 and 2008. Records included a single ‘purring’ male in Harwood Dale Forest on 10th May; three seen and others heard in Dalby Forest on 13th; three in Cropton Forest during May and seven at Low Dalby on 25th May. There were up to five calling in Wykeham Forest, including one regularly near the raptor viewpoint in late May and early June. Other Scarborough records referred to singles at Ravenscar on 7th, Sawdon on 16th and Ebberston Low Moor on 22nd June. August records included four singles over Troutsdale on 2nd and a notable count of 16 at Malton Cote, north of Ebberston on 25th August. The only sightings in September related to singles at Cowath Beck on 11th and at Potter Brompton Carr on 23rd.

In the York area single ‘purring’ birds were heard at Yearsley, Wheldrake, Pocklington Canal, Appleton Roebuck, Brighton, Gribthorpe, Scackleton, Terrington and Allerthorpe. There were fewer records from the former stronghold of Kiplingcotes in the Hull Valley, after the first on 29th April, although there were frequent sightings in the Tophill/Watton and Pulfin Bog area from 6th May until 3rd June, with a best of three on 31st May, and further records of two present in early August. Elsewhere, Molescroft in the Hull Valley hosted a breeding pair and up to five were present during the summer. Two also frequented Parlington Park for approximately a week during May. It failed to breed at Spurn; after a single on 8th May, up to four were recorded on the peninsula on a further 11 dates in May, with six present on 18th. The only subsequent records were singles on 4th and 14th June and 16th July.

There were records from four discrete sites on Thorne Moors during the summer and at least one made sporadic appearances on Hatfield Moors from 18th May until 20th June. Other June records included a singing male at Reynard Clough on 1st, singles at Yearsley on 17th, Pocklington Canal on 18th, calling at Thorpe Marsh on 22nd, Catwick Fishing Ponds on 24th, Cranswick on 27th, near Leven Canal on 29th with another at Helperthorpe on 5th July.

Records were much scarcer in the west, although unusually involved one at Snailsden on 1st June, followed by a pair at Harden between 19th June and 12th September. It failed to breed at Winterset for the first time ever, the sole records relating to singles on 2nd, 16th/17th May and 28th June; this despite regularly breeding there in recent years (14 pairs in 2003). Another singing male was present at Cudcom near Barnsley. The only records in the Sheffield/Rotherham area related to two at Thurcroft Marsh on 10th May, one at Pennyholme Marsh on 8th June, a single at Rother Valley CP on 12th June and finally, one at Aldwarke SF on 21st June.

Singles graced Southfield Res on 5th August and Stainton on 20th, while others appeared at Wadworth on 1st September and Low Dam in the Washburn Valley the following day.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* **C1E*** 9,14,12,8,18
Rare breeding species and vagrant/escape

Due to increases in the feral British breeding population and to keep in line with BOURC’s decision to give it a C1E* categorisation, this species was moved into the main list in 2004. All Yorkshire records may still be attributable to escapes, however, and until a self-supporting population is established, or ringing evidence proves dispersal from self-sustaining populations elsewhere in England, it is not yet officially on the YNU’s Yorkshire Category C list.

It was recorded in the Sheffield area from 27 sites between 11th April and the year-end, with an obvious increase over previous years. There was no proof of breeding and most sightings referred to no more than two, but three were present at Abbeydale on 17th September, Norton on 12th October and Brincliffe Edge on 31st December; with four at Nether Edge on 4th, Carterknowle on 14th October and Woodseats on 18th November.

Elsewhere there were singles at Little Ribston on 6th February, Rotherham on 24th March and a single over the centre of York on 11th April.

Later in the year one appeared at Canklow, Rotherham on 24th August, with September records from Flamborough on 9th, over High Green, Barnsley the next day, Denby Dale on 12th and Flamborough again on 19th. One was near Yeadon Tarn on 3rd October; three appeared near Sorby in November and a single was seen in Calderdale at Staups Lane, Shibden on sporadic dates from 8th November–30th December.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common to uncommon breeding summer visitor
BBS 32/211: –64% (–60) 1995–2009, –45% (–9) 2008–09

A widespread Palearctic species that winters south of the Sahara. There has been a worryingly long-term and steady national and local decline since the 1980s.

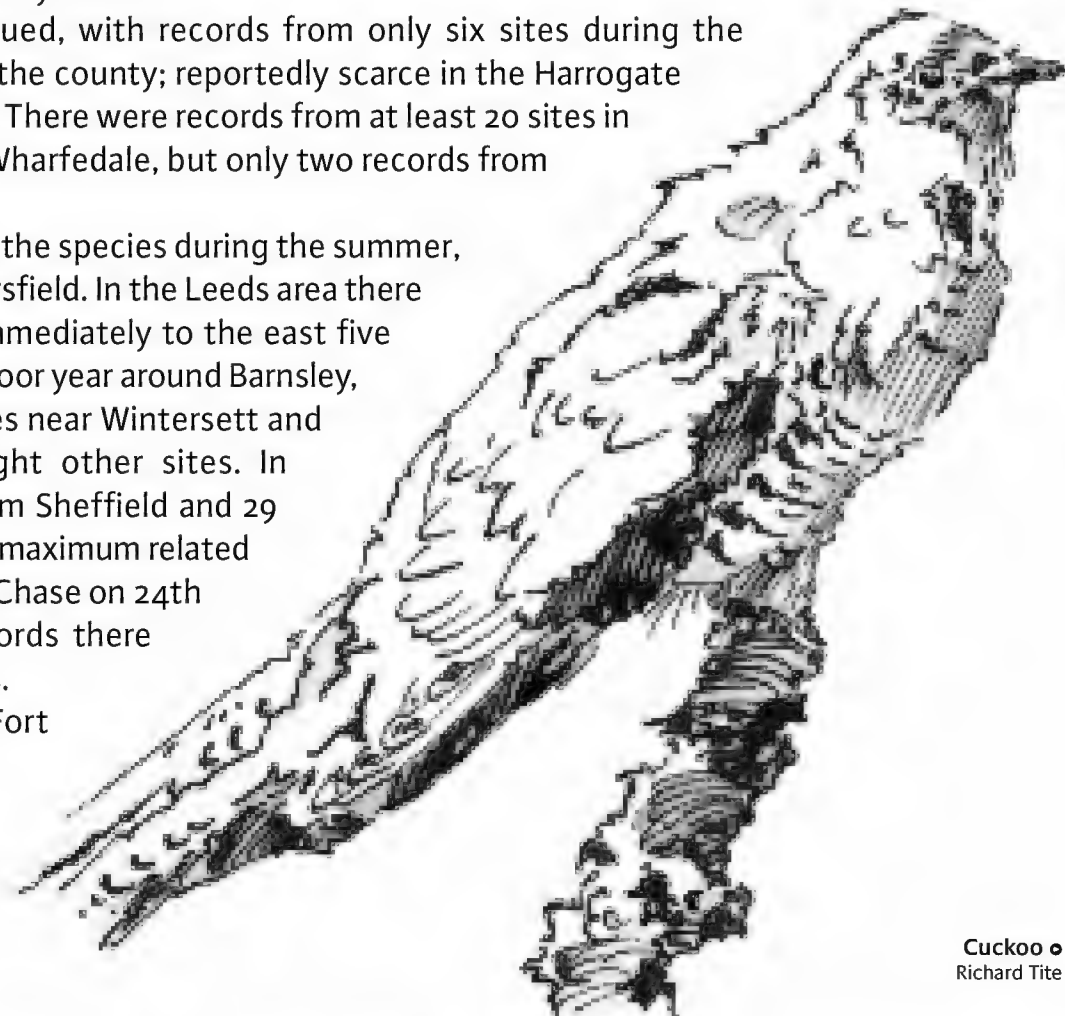
There were a number of early arrivals in April, with singles at Edderthorpe and Bolton Ings on 10th, Worsbrough’s earliest ever on 11th, with others at Agden Rocher and Ewden Beck the same day, Hatfield Moors on 12th, Staveley NR on 13th, Lockington on 17th, Winterset on 18th, Paull Holme Strays and Scaling Dam the following day and Tophill Low on 21st.

In the east, it was a poor spring at Flamborough, with only two records during May. Spurn fared slightly better, with 132 birds/days logged between 22nd April and 25th August, with up to four present. There were records from 11 sites around Scarborough, although long-term monitoring has shown a significant decline in the area and noted at 12 sites within Ryedale.

The population decline continued, with records from only six sites during the breeding season from the north of the county; reportedly scarce in the Harrogate area, with records from only 11 sites. There were records from at least 20 sites in mid-Wharfedale and ten in Upper Wharfedale, but only two records from Malham Tarn.

Nine sites near Halifax recorded the species during the summer, and likewise, 28 sites around Huddersfield. In the Leeds area there were records from 13 sites, while immediately to the east five pairs bred at Fairburn Ings. It was a poor year around Barnsley, with possibly only two singing males near Winterset and calling males confirmed from eight other sites. In addition, there were 60 records from Sheffield and 29 records from Rotherham; Sheffield’s maximum related to four (three males) at Wharcliffe Chase on 24th May and the vast majority of records there came from the western upland areas.

Late individuals appeared at Fort Paull on 29th August, followed by singles at Cowath Beck, Scarborough on 5th and finally, Scaling Dam on 24th September.



BARN OWL *Tyto alba* **A**
Amber list: uncommon resident breeder, rare in north-west. BBS 15/211

The population of this globally widespread species is thought to be increasing locally, particularly in the east, where nest-box schemes have proved successful. Under-recorded on BBS visits and not found in any of the West or South Yorkshire squares.

This species continues to do well, with two or three pairs present in the Skelton area in the north-east. Further south the population was reportedly doing very well around Scarborough, with widespread records, including a minimum of ten breeding pairs. Elsewhere on the coast, a record four pairs bred at Flamborough and there were numerous sightings in Ryedale. In excess of 100 records were submitted to the York Ornithological Club, suggesting the population is faring well. The Hull Valley clearly remains a stronghold, with at least four at Tophill Low on 25th January and described as ‘very common’ in the Pulfin Bog–Leven Carrs area amongst others.

In the Harrogate area there were six confirmed and one probable pair and in Wharfedale, five pairs fledged 13 young, despite low vole numbers. However, generally it is much scarcer in the west, with a single near Rishworth on 9th January the sole Calderdale record. A single breeding pair present near Bradford was hopefully the precursor to a local population increase there. In the Leeds area, a pair bred at Swillington Ings and another probably did so at Yeadon.

There were an estimated 20 pairs around Barnsley, including single breeding pairs at Winterset, Edderthorpe, Elsecar and Broomhill; regular sightings at Old Moor throughout, included six on 6th July. Breeding was confirmed at two sites near Rotherham and suspected at a third.

A dark-breasted individual hunted over Harpham Moor on 23rd February; although such variants are occasionally found within the ‘alba’ form, and are not necessarily indicative of continental origin.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* **C1**

Uncommon resident in south and west, scarce in east. BBS 11/211

Introduced into England as recently as 1842, but a downturn in recent years suggests a moderate long-term decline. A slight increase in recording from BBS squares, from 8 to 11.

It continues to be a widespread breeder around Scarborough, with pairs at Willerby, Long Nab, West Ayton Carr, Cloughton Wyke, Cloughton, Cayton Carr and Scalby Lodge, with one pair thought to have bred in the same tree as a pair of Barn Owls. However, a decline was apparent in the Hull Valley, where there were records from Watton Priory, Sancton, Paull, Raywell, Pulfin & High Eske, Kelk, Swine Moor, Hessle, Cranswick, Fort Paull, Etton Dykes and Kilnwick.

In the west there were widespread records in the Harrogate area, including from ten sites around Ripon. It remains common around Bradford, widespread in Wharfedale, and apparently stable around Halifax, with records from 31 sites in the latter area. There were also probable breeding pairs at 14 locations near Huddersfield.

There were a number of reports in the Barnsley area, with up to three pairs at Winterset, at least three pairs in the Roughbriarworth/Cubley area; single pairs were also present at Worsbrough, Barrow, Round Green, Stainborough East Park and Wigfield Farm. Well reported throughout the year near Sheffield, with most received from traditional sites, especially in the east of the recording area; breeding was proved at Brampton le Morthen, Peat Pits, White Lee Moor, Kiveton Waters and Thrybergh Cemetery.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* **A**

Fairly common and widespread resident. BBS 6/211

Very under-recorded, and not picked up on BBS surveys. This species remains widespread with breeding records from across the county; it often goes relatively unrecorded and therefore it is difficult to determine trends.

No change in status reported, with most records predictably relating to calling birds across most parts of the county. It remains a fairly common breeder in areas of suitable habitat around Scarborough, being particularly numerous in the forests and an estimated six pairs bred on Flamborough. In the Hull Valley pairs were reported at Risby Park, North Ferriby, East Park, Tophill Low, Kelk, Brantingham and Woodmansey.

There were records from at least 20 sites in the Harrogate area, including six pairs around Littlethorpe. Low vole numbers limited the breeding population in Wharfedale, but 15 young fledged from ten nesting attempts in one part of the study area. Likewise at Malham Tarn, a shortage of voles resulted in complete breeding failure of the five pairs present.

There were records from 31 sites in the Halifax area, a minimum of nine breeding records from Huddersfield, with additional territorial males present at a number of other locations, including seven at Langsett Res on 23rd February. It was described as a fairly common and widespread resident around Sheffield, including three calling at Ecclesall and four at Rocher Wood/High Bradfield. The annual Nightjar census on the Humberhead Peatlands NNR located four hooting on Thorne Moors and five on nearby Hatfield Moors.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* **A**

Scarce breeding resident, passage migrant and irruptive winter visitor

Very little data available, and very under-recorded, but population may be stable. Scandinavian migrants of this Holarctic circumpolar species are seen on the coast in autumn.

In the first winter period, roosts were monitored at a number of sites, including Thorpe Marsh, with up to ten in January, seven in February and five until 26th March. Elsewhere, a single remained at Sunk Island on 1st/2nd January, two remained near Skipton during January until the following month, with singles at Draughton, Silsden and Welwick in February. A roost in the Swillington Ings area attracted up to seven in the early months, whilst up to five were present in January and February at Fairburn Ings, with four in March. Three were at Edderthorpe early on, with four at Wilthorpe Marsh in mid-February and a single present in the early part of the year at Carlton Marsh. A single roosted near Rotherham into February, with occasional sightings at five other sites in the area, and singles were noted at three sites around Sheffield during the first quarter.

Along the coast, migrants appeared at Flamborough on 19th and 23rd March, 29th April and probably the same on 19th, 26th and 30th May and 12th June. At Spurn singles were present on 4th, 7th and 24th March, one apparently in off the sea on 11th April and another single on 20th.

A number of breeding season records were received, although it was a poor year in the Washburn area, with only one pair fledging young from 11 nesting attempts. A pair probably bred near Malham Tarn, whilst four pairs each fledged a minimum of two young near Halifax and present in potentially suitable nesting habitat at four other sites. There were records near Huddersfield from two sites during the breeding season and at two others at different times of the year.

Further east, two pairs bred at Fairburn Ings. Near York, an adult female with a brood patch fell off a bridge into the river near Rawcliffe Ings on 15th May; luckily, it had chosen to fall into the water next to a group of soldiers practicing a river crossing and was promptly rescued! After a check-up, it was released back on site unharmed the same day. A pair also bred at Strensall Common where two juveniles were located on 1st July and an adult was noted on sporadic dates at North Duffield Carrs from 27th June until 10th August. At least two pairs bred at Thorne Moors and three pairs on Hatfield Moors.

In the Barnsley area a pair at Carlton Marsh was observed displaying, juveniles were heard at three locations on the eastern moors and pairs bred at Midhope Res, Whitwell Moor, Bolton Ings and Edderthorpe. Adults were present at three suitable nesting sites near Sheffield (one pair confirmed breeding), and another pair bred near Rotherham.

It was a poor autumn for coastal migrants with no records from Scarborough and singles at Buckton on 15th October, Flamborough on 23rd and Filey on 31st October. There were only three records at Spurn, with singles on 29th August and lone individuals in off the sea on 13th and 14th October, followed by one at nearby Easington on 25th October. Further up the estuary, Sunk Island hosted two on 6th November.

In the latter months, up to two were present at Thorpe Marsh, a maximum of nine at Swillington Ings, up to two at Fairburn Ings and three occupied roost sites near Rotherham.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flamens* **A**

Amber list: rare moorland breeder; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 7/211

Wintering birds on the coast and estuaries include continental immigrants.

Clearly favoured wintering sites were present in both the Wolds and along the Humber estuary. In the former, three remained in residence at Millington Pastures from the start of the year until 15th March, with a single at Wetwang on 5th March. Along the Humber, Welton Waters pulled in a single on 29th January; Sunk Island attracted three on 3rd February, Goole Fields hosted a single on 13th, while the saltmarsh at Welwick attracted four on 23rd February and a single visited Paull Holme Strays on 1st April. The Spurn area hosted singles on 22nd/23rd January, 28th February and on five dates in March. Along the coast there were occasional singles at South Gare and Flamborough during the first three months, one at Barmston on 14th February and a single at Hornsea Mere on 21st March.

Elsewhere, up to three showed well at Silverwood Pit Tip from the start of the year until 6th April, with three at Thurcroft Pit Tip during late January and two remaining in residence until 26th March. Three remained in residence at Swillington Ings during January/February, with occasional records until 22nd April; two graced Skelton Lake occasionally in January, and Fairburn Ings attracted singles on 11th January and 7th-9th February. A single stayed at Leven Carr from 8th-17th February, while singles appeared at Pugney's CP and Blubberhouses in March and Rosedale Dale Head and Nunnington during April.

Coastal spring passage accounted for a single at Filey on 1st April, two at Spurn on 5th April, one on 12th and a single on 21st April; up to two featured at Flamborough on several dates throughout April. A single then appeared at Scalby Lodge Pond on 9th May and one flew south at Spurn on 21st May, followed by a single at Spurn on 10th June and one at Flamborough the next day. Inland, Thorne Moors attracted a single on 20th May, followed by lone individuals at East Ousegill on 12th June and Fairburn Ings on 23rd June.

It was a poor breeding season, with possible breeding pairs at Scaling Dam and Sleddale, but only one record during the summer from the Harrogate area. One pair bred at Oxenhope near Keighley, but a breeding pair disappeared from a site in the Washburn Valley for the second successive year; there were only three other pairs in mid-Wharfedale. At least four confirmed pairs and one probable were present near Halifax. One moorland area near Huddersfield attracted nine displaying males early in the season, two of which had attracted females by April, but there were no further sightings in May! Elsewhere, a pair displayed near Winscar Res in April and May.

There were very few coastal migrants during the autumn, with a single in off the sea at Filey on 10th October and singles on five further October dates there. Two appeared at Buckton on 10th October. At Flamborough singles were present on 18th and 22nd September, three dates in October, six on four dates in November and finally a single appeared on 30th December. Spurn logged a mere seven records on two dates in September and five in October; in addition, singles were at Beacon Ponds on 6th September, Easington Gas Terminal on 25th October and Beacon Lane on 6th November.

Additional autumn records included singles at Paull Holme Strays on 15th August and Old Moor on 10th September, Flasks Lake on 17th and Pulfin & High Eske on 29th September. During the final quarter, singles were recorded on sporadic dates at Winterset, Wombwell Ings, Wheldrake Ings, Paull Holme Strays, Malham Tarn, North Cave Wetlands and Went Ings amongst others.

The numbers wintering at the year-end appeared to be very low; after a single at Swillington Ings on 9th November, up to two were present to mid-December, but none remained at the end of the year. Likewise, Silverwood Pit Top's sole record in the final quarter related to a single on 29th December.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
This Palearctic species winters in East and southern Africa, with a British population of 4600 pairs.
The year's first appeared on Thorne Moors on 10th May, the earliest ever record for the site, followed by another at nearby Hatfield Moors three days later; however the main arrival took place from 23rd May.
An annual survey on Thorne Moors discovered 37 established territories; nearby Hatfield Moors hosted a further 31 territorial males.
The Barnsley/Sheffield Pennine fringe attracted 17 churring males at nine sites; although this represented one location less than the previous year, almost half of those surveyed held two churring males. This included two pairs that displayed on Broomhead Moor, Hingcliff Common attracted an additional three males, while a pair successfully reared two young at another site.
The forests fringing the southern edge of the North Yorkshire Moors hold most of the county's population and reports suggested the species continues to do well. At least six pairs were in Cropton Forest and also Gale Hill, clearfells in both Dalby and Wykeham Forest attracted territorial males, Harwood Dale hosted seven churring males on 17th June and at least six churred within Langdale Forest.
Further north, Guisborough Forest held several breeding pairs, with five males present on 31st May.
Away from the core areas, the only records consisted of one flushed from a large garden at Stone Creek on 11th May and another at Plumton Rocks, near Harrogate on 3rd August. The year's last was a single on Hatfield Moors on 24th August.



SWIFT *Apus apus* **A**
Amber list: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 90/211: -25% (-29) 1995-2009, +91% (0) 2008-09
There has been a long-term decline in breeding numbers of this trans-Saharan migrant, and it no longer features in the top 15 most common birds in the county. This year saw a welcome but apparently local recovery in numbers.
The first were notably early, starting with singles south at Spurn and Flamborough on 8th April, another at Flamborough the next day and one at Elland GP on 10th; the latter the earliest ever for Calderdale. A subsequent gap ended with the next at Spurn and Old Moor on 21st April, which heralded a general arrival across the county. Numbers reached 150 at Winterset Res by 1st May, with 200 at Farnham GP on 7th. Numbers continued to build with 600 through Hatfield Moors on 9th and 750 there the following day. Old Moor hosted 2000 by 13th May, with 800 at Winterset Res on 18th; over 1000 were present at the latter site on several dates in late May, while Southfield Res attracted 1250 on 26th. Winterset Res hosted 1300 on 6th June, while a visible migration watch at Sandwith Moor, in Upper Wharfedale, produced 2000 heading east the next day. Old Moor held 2000 on several dates throughout June.

The wet summer may have had an adverse effect on breeding success, with an increase in the numbers of chicks found on the ground and brought to rescue centres. Southbound passage was already apparent from mid-June, with 250 heading south at Long Nab, Scarborough on 22nd.
Counts in July were generally low, with 940 south at Long Nab in 3.5 hours on 15th. Higham, near Barnsley recorded 1000 heading west after a heavy overnight storm on 18th and 500 were over Hatfield Moors on 27th, followed by 300 south over the river Hull on 30th July.
Although several large counts were made in the first week of August, thereafter, numbers were noticeably reduced; 200 were at Winterset Res and 300 at Ulley CP on 2nd, with 700 at Old Moor on 4th and 300 over Carlton Mires on 5th. By the first week of September counts were down to low single figures, with five south at Long Nab, two at Filey CP and a single at Hunmanby Gap on 8th; a single at Bolton Ings, Barnsley on 10th was followed by singles at Spurn on 21st and Flamborough the next day.
Southbound passage at Spurn was relatively poor, with few days having suitable conditions in the peak period from late June to mid-July. A total of just 21,232 flew south between late April and the last in September. The first notable movement related to 355 on 27th May, although the highest counts were in June and July and included: 5200 on 17th June, 1200 on 18th; 1400 on 5th July, 1465 on 6th, 888 on 16th, 766 on 22nd and 773 on 29th July.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* **A**
Amber list: uncommon to scarce resident breeder. BBS 3/211
Widely distributed across temperate and southern Europe, most are resident in the west. In the UK some move to the coast and estuaries in winter.
There were widely scattered reports from across the county, with many areas indicating another slight increase on the previous year. The population appeared to be healthy across Sheffield and also reported regularly from at least nine sites around Barnsley; four were regular at Old Moor, with a maximum of six present on occasions between June and September. A slight increase was witnessed around Halifax/Huddersfield, particularly along the Calder and its tributaries, and breeding was confirmed from ten sites. Two pairs bred at Fairburn Ings and immediately to the west, the population around Leeds remains healthy, particularly along the rivers Aire and Wharfe; a similar picture exists around the Harrogate area, with a presence at most suitable sites.
In Upper Wharfedale, however, the species continues to decline. Records were down from 35 sites in 2005 to 19 in 2009; in particular, records from the north of the area dropped drastically, down from ten sites the previous year to just one and there were only two breeding records. A lone individual remained at Malham Tarn from 11th-19th September.
In the east it is uncommon south of the Tees, but a pair bred at Salter Gill Beck near Kirklevington. Breeding pairs were thinly distributed around Scarborough and most frequently encountered around the Carrs. Two pairs bred at Tophill Low and there were at least two further pairs in the Hull Valley; in addition, a pair bred at the Long Bank, Easington. Records were received from 12 dates at Spurn from July to September; Flamborough's ninth ever graced South Landing on 3rd October.

BEE-EATER *Merops apias* **A** 2,2,5,5,2
Rare visitor from southern Europe; 101 previous records (148 birds)
This Mediterranean species breeds throughout southern Europe, and is now a regular over-shooting spring visitor to the county, with Spurn Point the premier location.
A single rested on wires in the Triangle at Spurn at 1845hrs on 27th May (RSm *et al.*). Unsurprisingly quite mobile, it headed down to the Warren before returning north and alighting in the Church Field; having flown north to Grange Farm, Kilnsea, it was finally noted in the cemetery in Easington.
Possibly the same then appeared over the finder's garden at Grimethorpe just before 0500hrs on 31st May, before heading west towards Cudworth (KS); it was then picked up by another birder over Staincross GC at 0510hrs. This represents only the third ever record for Barnsley, following the first at Midhopestones in September 1971 and a single at Crane Moor in June 1997.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* **A** 2,5,0,4,1
Rare visitor from Europe; almost annual with 264 previous records
Breeds from France and Iberia eastwards to China and south-east Asia. Western Palearctic breeders winter in Africa, south of the Sahara.
In the autumn, an obliging individual lingered at Biggin House Farm, Ugthorpe from 17th-19th September.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* **A** 57,13,4,33,7

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce coastal passage migrant, rare inland.

Breeds across Eurasia through to Japan; it has been extinct in Britain since 1993. The European population mostly winters south of the Sahara and migrating Scandinavian birds occur regularly in the county in spring and autumn.

Spurn's first spring record for three years appeared in the Sheep Field on 29th April (AR); later in the day three were located at the Lighthouse, with presumably one of these the aforementioned (JHe *et al.*). A single then remained in residence near the Point the following day. More unexpected, the next spent ten minutes in the trees around the village hall at Thornton-in-Craven at 0730hrs on 5th June (JP).

A lack of conducive drift conditions resulted in a disappointing autumn that started with a single at Easington Lagoons on 5th September. The following day a single was located well inland on Dukes Road, Broomhead Moor, north-west of Agden Bridge (SDu). Finally, the last made landfall at Spurn by Post 66 on 18th September and stayed in the general area until 21st (NG *et al.*).



Wryneck o
Richard Tite

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* **A**

Amber list: uncommon resident. BBS 24/211

A European species that is expanding northwards in Britain, possibly due to climate change. Although it is recorded from many localities from across the region, it remains scarce in the Holderness area of East Yorkshire.

The population in the south-west/west appears to be doing well, with widespread reports from the Sheffield, Barnsley, Huddersfield and Halifax areas, including three pairs around Worsbrough Res. Further north, records received from 17 sites within the Harrogate area, with breeding proved at four of these. There were sightings from 44 locations within the Upper Wharfedale recording area, with confirmed breeding at Draughton Heights and Hebden.

In the east, the valleys on the southern edge of the North Yorkshire Moors continued to be a favoured location, but coastal records south of Scarborough were scarce. Singles were present at Reighton Gap on 10th January, presumably the same at nearby Hunmanby Gap on 24th January, Easington on 28th February and Danes Dyke, Flamborough on 30th April. Away from the coastal strip, pairs bred at four sites within the Hull Valley.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* **A**

Fairly common resident; scarce passage migrant in autumn.

BBS 51/211: +61% (+115) 1995-2009, -35% (+4) 2008-09

The population of the resident subspecies *anglicus* continues to increase rapidly, both nationally and locally, and it is an increasingly familiar sight at bird tables. Numbers this year were down, perhaps due to harsher weather in northern England. Nominate race birds from Scandinavia are occasional immigrants.

Reported across the county, wherever there is suitable habitat; most references indicated either a stable or increasing population. Higher numbers included ten at Bretton Park on 14th February and ten at High Batts NR on 19th May. Winterset reported 11 occupied territories, an increase from nine in 2008, and Bretton CP hosted seven occupied territories.

Coastal records in autumn may have related to continental individuals of the nominate race *D. m. major*; however, post-breeding dispersal could also account for such records. It was a relatively poor year at Spurn, starting with a single at the Warren on 16th April and a single at Kew two days later. A total of 32 bird/days was logged from late July to early December and included one in off the sea on 1st December.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce resident, rare in south-east

The national population is declining significantly, and although South Yorkshire remains a relative stronghold, all records need to be reported. Not found in any BBS squares again this year.

With records from only 58 sites (69 in 2007) the decline appears to continue; sixteen of these were in the Barnsley/Sheffield region, with indications of possible breeding at 11 locations (14 in 2007). The more favoured sites included Beeley Wood, Gleadless Valley and the Rivelin Valley, where one well watched pair fledged two young; this despite having to chase off a Great Spotted Woodpecker that tried to usurp the site.

Further north, Halifax experienced its best showing for several years; records were received from eight sites, with drumming heard at Crimsworth Dean and a pair bred at Catherine Slack, Hove Edge fledging three young. Mostly singles were recorded from 12 sites in the Leeds and Bradford areas. However, most activity was focused around Shipley Glen; between February and May up to two were reported from Hirst Wood, Eldwick, Dowley Gap and Shipley Glen itself. Evidence of breeding came from one site near Bradford and, near Leeds, a male was drumming at Farnley Park on 5th April and territorial behaviour was noted at Stockeld Park on 12th April. Only recorded at two sites in Upper Wharfedale, including in the Washburn Valley, where a pair fledged three young; this represents a considerable decline from nine locations in 2005 and four in 2008.

A scattering of reports from the Harrogate area were primarily focused around Ripon, with one at Studley Park the first record for the site in ten years; a pair was present near Bishop Monkton Ings.

In the York area singles were noted at: The Ebor Way and Huby in January, Holmlea in February, Allerthorpe Common and Castle Howard Lake in April and, finally, at Acaster Malbis in December. A pair also bred in the vicinity of Potteric Carr, where an adult was accompanied by a juvenile on 9th June.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla* **A**

0,2,1,0,2

Rare coastal passage migrant; 45 previous records

This species breeds from North-west Africa through the Mediterranean to eastern Asia, with western forms wintering south of the Sahara.

A single discovered on the beach at the Point on 19th September flew off south towards Lincolnshire at 1245hrs (LGRE *et al.*). Later in the autumn, one was discovered on stubble adjacent to Holmes Gut, Flamborough on 31st October and then it remained in residence until 7th November (JAB: NC *et al.*).

WOOD LARK *Lullula arborea* **A**

Amber list and UK BAP species: scarce breeding visitor and passage migrant

A partial migrant, the small UK population has recently expanded northwards, possibly due to climate change.

The first migrant flew south over the Warren at Spurn on 11th March, followed by a single north over the Humber at Spurn on 21st March. Flamborough's sole spring record related to a single on the Outer Head on 31st March. Finally, one tracked south at Spurn before dropping into the Walker Butts area on 17th April.

Hatfield Moors remained a favoured location during the summer, with the first returning on 27th February and the last noted on 11th October; seven territorial males were present there during the breeding season. Nearby a singing male displayed on the edge of Thorne Moors on 15th March. Further north the lowland heathlands near York continue to host a small population; the first returned to the FERA complex, east of the city, on 20th February. Two sites near York then attracted three singing males each; two pairs were present at another site, with an additional heathland holding a single territorial male.

A single at Langsett Banks on 27th July represented the first record in the Barnsley area since a single near Old Moor in October 1998. However, most activity was confined to October, starting with one north-west and two south-east over Staveley NR on 12th October. Two days later a single flew south over Easington, followed by one west over the main dell at Buckton on 15th October. A single near Holmes Gut, Flamborough on 22nd October preceded a single that tracked south at Spurn the next day. Additional singles then flew south at Kilnsea on 25th October and Spurn on 30th. The year's last was discovered in a grass field at Ravenscar on 15th November; only the fourth Scarborough record and the first since 1979.

SKY LARK *Alauda arvensis* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: common resident; passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 150/211: +9% (–19) 1995–2009, –10% (–5) 2008–09
This Palearctic species has been in long-term national decline. However, in the county it seems to have been fairly stable since 1995. A slight recovery 2006–2008 seen in BBS surveys was reversed this year.

Cold weather in both winter periods resulted in several large flocks assembling at lowland sites and, more especially, along the coastal fringe. Staveley NR hosted 150 on 4th January, but numbers peaked during February, when maxima included: 130 at Long Nab on 7th; 180 at Hooton Roberts near Rotherham and 80 at Allerton Park the following day; Filey then hosted 450 on 9th, with 110 heading south over Southfield Res the same day; thereafter, 200 were recorded at Flamborough on 12th February.

In the spring, Spurn logged 185 heading south and 31 in off the sea between 16th February and 25th May; most counts were in single figures, but there were 56 on 19th February and 35 on 11th March.

During the breeding season there were 30 territories at Winterset, 17 singing males at Ingbirchworth on 26th April, 68 breeding pairs at Fairburn Ings and 60 singing males at nearby Swillington Ings. Within the Upper Wharfedale recording area, there were 25 singing males between Cold Keld and Green Side on 29th April and 19 at Hesledene on 25th May. Immediately to the south, indications of potential population densities included 12 territorial males on Scargill Pasture on 12th March and 15 around the Buck Stones area of Rombalds Moor on 14th April.

A total of 3965 flew south at Spurn between 20th September and the year-end. High counts included 425 on 28th October and 607 on 2nd November. There was also a hard weather movement on 20th December, when 911 flew south.

Visible migration was observed over several inland sites during the latter half of autumn. Southerly movement over Winterset included: 50 on 27th September, 85 on 4th October, 135 on 17th October and 151 the following day. Blackmoorfoot Res logged 47 heading west on 7th October, while Oxenhope recorded 103 south on 17th October and 32 heading in the opposite direction the next day. Further north, Stainburn Moor recorded 47 tracking south on 14th October.

Numbers increased at several sites during December, due to the advent of a cold snap, with bests of: 200 at Hagg Lane, in the Lower Derwent Valley on 18th; 992 at Flamborough and 104 south over Southfield Res the next day; 350 at Filey on 25th; 130 at Hatfield Moors and 150 at Scalby Lodge the following day; 150 at Beal Carrs on 27th; 126 at Orgreave Lakes on 28th; and finally, 700 at Buckton on 31st December.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris* **A** 36,19,10,2,2
Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

The European race *flava* winters in fluctuating numbers on the British coasts, with some birds staying in Yorkshire and others moving north along the coast in spring.

An extremely disappointing year with only two records, starting with a single at South Gare on 22nd/23rd October (CD: JWIL *et al.*). A single then flew south as far as the Warren at Spurn, before turning back towards Beacon Ponds on 17th November (AAH).

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* **A**
Amber list: fairly common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 15/211
The population of this sub-Saharan migrant is stable or slightly increasing.

The first arrivals included four at Hatfield Moors on 6th March, followed by singles at Ripon Parks on 8th and Swillington Ings on 13th; next were three at Winterset, two at Potteric Carr and one at Spurn on 14th March, with the latter a relatively early date for a coastal location. Further arrivals were noted at Flamborough, Edderthorpe Flash, Old Moor and Fairburn the next day, with more widespread records before the end of the month. Numbers increased during April, with notable counts of 300 at Pugney's CP on 14th, 300 at Staveley NR on 16th, 400 at Fairburn mid-month, 1200 at Tophill Low on 26th and 400 feeding over Hornsea Mere on 28th April.

Breeding was reported at a number of colonies, including 68 occupied nests at Wykeham Lakes, 21 at the Butcher Haven colony at Filey and at 'a large colony' at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough. In Ryedale there were also 70 occupied holes at Spaunton Quarry and 102 at Helmsley. None bred at North Cave's usual site, but at least 300 pairs bred on the new reserve extension workings and there were at least 20 occupied nests in Brigham Quarry in the Hull Valley. Elsewhere in the east, there were 30 nest holes at Barmston, with some still occupied there on 11th September, a maximum of 42 pairs at Atwick and a few pairs bred on the cliffs at Sandy Beaches, Spurn.

In Upper Wharfedale nesting colonies were present along much of the Wharfe up to Buckden, including 60 occupied nests at Barden, 30 at Grassington and 15 at nearby Lower Grass Wood. Along the adjacent river Skiffare, nesting was noted at a number of locations, and in Littondale there were 60 nests at Hawkswick. Along the Washburn there were 100 nests at Pool Mill, 30 near Otley and 40 at Ben Rhydding. Fortunately river levels in the Dales remained low during the breeding season and there was no repeat of the severe summer flooding that washed out many of the nests during the previous two years.

In the Harrogate area 65 birds attended the artificial nesting wall at Farnham GP, with flocks of 150 at Ripon Parks and 100 at Staveley NR during the summer, all of which would have related to local breeders. A total of 339 were caught and ringed at a colony by the River Ure, including a Spanish-ringed individual. Elsewhere a decline was noted around Halifax, but at Swillington Ings there were 400 on 30th July, over 1000 in mid-August and still over 800 present in early September, suggesting a good breeding season around Leeds.

Notable post-breeding counts came from Hatfield Moors with 2000 present in mid-July and 1000 in mid-August; and Winterset attracted 1000 in late August, a notable passage of 1100 south during 5.5 hours on 6th September and 400 still present on 8th September.

Visible migration was above average at Spurn, with 9525 heading south between 10th June and 23rd October, including 1670 on 24th July, 586 on 1st and 1100 on 8th September. Late September records included singles at Kelk and Winterset on 26th and three at Swillington Park on 28th, whilst 3rd October produced 27 south at Farnham GP and a single at Pugney's CP.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* **A**
Amber list: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 177/211: +16% (+29) 1995–2009, +15% (+6) 2008–09

The population each year is variable, perhaps depending on factors affecting wintering areas in South Africa and migration routes, but the overall trend remains a positive one.

The first appeared at Ecclesall on 13th March, followed by singles at Carlton Marsh and Flamborough on 21st, singles at Burton Constable and Welton Waters and three at Winterset on 23rd and another at Thrybergh on 24th. Two appeared at the latter site on 27th, followed by one at Treeton on 28th, and a more widespread arrival then took place over the last few days of March. During April Rother Valley attracted 200 on 16th, with Worsbrough hosting 130 and North Cave a further 50 the same day; subsequently 270 fed over Old Moor on 27th. During May 400 visited Winterset on 12th, followed by 100 at Thrybergh two days later.

There was a good spring passage through Spurn with 20,122 heading south between 29th March and 31st May and highs of: 1400 on 6th May, 4500 on 16th May, 1000 south the next day, 1200 on 18th, 1800 the following day, 1950 on 20th and 1700 on 21st May. Counts elsewhere were understandably less impressive, although a storm prompted 1000 to head north at Hunley Hall GC in an hour on 15th May. Elsewhere 782 flew past Saltburn on 16th, with southbound totals of 545 at Flamborough, 238 at Filey and 219 similarly at Long Nab on the same day.

Breeding was reported throughout, including 135 young ringed from 39 monitored nests in the Harrogate area and 111 young from 26 nests in Upper Wharfedale. Old Moor attracted 1000 on 20th June, with smaller numbers feeding over a few sites during July, including 200 again at Old Moor on 18th and a similar number at Hatfield Moors on 27th.

A roost at Elland GP hosted 5000 on 18th August, reducing to 3000 on 25th, and nearby there were 1000 at Northowram on 19th and 536 at Staveley NR on 31st. The last notable aggregations during September came on 27th, when there were 590 at Winterset, 320 at Old Moor and 200 at Thrybergh CP.

A total of 31,340 flew south at Spurn between 10th June and 2nd November. However, with one obvious exception, day counts were generally low, with bests of: 500 on 8th August; 2456 on 1st September; 1050 on 7th; and finally, Spurn's third highest ever count of 22,000 heading south on 8th September. This exceptional movement was witnessed at other locations, firstly with an indication of what was to come at Flamborough, where 10,000 flew south on 7th September, and 5600 then tracked east past Sunk Island on 8th.

In the latter half of October there were singles at Bubwith on 24th and Hunmanby Gap and North Cave Wetlands the next day; November produced the aforementioned single at Spurn on 2nd.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum* **A**
Amber list: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 70/211: –18% (–8) 1995–2009, –7% (–19) 2008–09

This trans-Saharan migrant appears to be in long-term decline across Europe, but BBS data suggests an increase in England since the late 1990s. However, 2009 was the fourth year in a row with decreased occurrences reported in BBS squares in the county.

More than usual arrived at the end of March, starting with one at Thornton Moor Reservoir on 20th, the earliest site record, two at North Duffield Carrs on 21st, a single at Potteric Carr on 26th, two at Swillington Park the following day, one at Winterset on 28th (the earliest ever there), six at Ogden, Halifax on 29th and three at Pugney's CP on 31st. Numbers slowly increased across the county during April and May, but the only notable count related to 200 at Fairburn Ings during May. Passage at Spurn was above average between 1st April and 2nd June, with 4981 logged heading south; high counts in May included 450 on 16th, 800 on 20th, 1250 on 21st and 955 flying south on 22nd May.

Several areas reported a decline, including Flamborough in the east. Further west there were no confirmed breeding reports from the Malham Tarn area and a probable decline noted in the Washburn Valley. It was also considered to be a poor year around Leeds, with declines apparent at several sites. In the north-east of the county, a traditional cliff-nesting colony at Boulby held 63 nests.

Post-breeding flocks assembled from late summer, with 500 at Todmorden on 3rd August, 200 at Copley, Halifax on 9th, 320 at Flamborough on 30th and 500 headed west at Skinningrove on 31st August. In September there were 350 at Thrybergh CP on 4th and an impressive 2000 at Flamborough on 7th.

After a single at Clifton Ings on 27th October, and another at Spurn the following day, the last two were clearly reluctant to leave: one remained in residence at Brough GC from 16th-21st November and another appeared at Atwick on 20th November.

Spurn logged 9016 heading south from 10th June to late October, with an impressive 7000 tracking south on 8th September; this represented Spurn's fourth highest count ever.



House Martin ◉
Colin Wilkinson

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica* **A**

7,1,3,2,12

Rare passage migrant; 64 previous records (70 birds)

Breeds from NW Africa through the Mediterranean through to the Middle East, with other populations east through India to Japan. Over-shooting migrants thought to be returning from Africa occur from April and post-breeding dispersal can occur into late October.

An impressive arrival took place along the coast at the end of April, starting with four on 26th: a single flew south over Old Fall Steps, Flamborough at 0625hrs (IM); the next flew north along the cliff at Filey GC at 0910hrs (SC); two then flew south over the Crown & Anchor car-park and the Triangle at Spurn at 1155hrs (JCa: AM: CCR *et al.*). The following day a single was discovered late evening at Swine Moor, near Beverley (NH) and two fed over the south-east end of Hornsea Mere during the evening on 28th April (MRo *et al.*). The mini-influx ended with a more typical record, when a single flew south past the sea-watching hut at Spurn at 0955hrs on 1st May (MMc *et al.*). The next tracked south past the Warren at Spurn at 0725hrs on 20th May (AR *et al.*) and another repeated the same at 0825hrs the next day (AAH: AR).

More unusually, two first-years were discovered lingering around the Blue Bell, Kilnsea during the late afternoon on 27th October (SN *et al.*); they were both last seen over Kew Villa before dark and represented Spurn's first autumn record since 2001.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae* **A**

28,10,12,5,10

Scarce coastal passage migrant in autumn, rare in spring and inland

The migratory *richardi* form of this species breeds in central and eastern Asia, but regularly arrives as a migrant on the east coast from mid-September *en route* to uncertain wintering grounds.

There were ten singles during the autumn and all restricted to coastal locations. The first appeared adjacent to the Gorse Field at Flamborough on 13th September (PC). A flighty bird was then seen over Clubley's Field at Spurn on 19th (AR *et al.*); it was later seen at various places along the peninsula as it made its way south and eventually flew off towards Lincolnshire at 1230hrs. This was followed by another south over Middle Camp, Spurn on 21st September (AJG).

In October a single made landfall at South Landing, Flamborough on 10th (PAL) and was followed by another that lingered near 'Booted Gully', Flamborough on 14th (PC *et al.*). South Gare hosted a single the next day that remained in residence until 18th (MCor: CVG *et al.*). A single was flushed from the Point Dunes, Spurn on 23rd October (RD), with the next staying at the north end of Beacon Lane from 26th-28th October (SGw *et al.*), whilst one flew south over the Raptor Watchpoint at Flamborough on 27th October (KB: KC). Finally, the year's last graced Boulby on 29th October (MAB).

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni* **A**

1,1,1,3,1

Rare coastal passage migrant; 26 previous records

European range restricted to North Urals, although widespread from Central Siberia east to Japan, wintering in southern China and in south-east Asia.

A single spent the afternoon in Old Fall Plantation, Flamborough on 5th November and remained until dusk (IM *et al.*); remarkably, given the scarcity of November sightings, this appeared on the same date as the 2008 individual at Flamborough.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding summer visitor to north and west. BBS 5/211

A nationally declining migrant from south of the Sahara that breeds throughout most of the Palearctic including Arctic Scandinavia, but rarely in Ireland. Its range has been contracting in England, and has almost disappeared from the east of the county.

The first appeared at Wykeham Forest on 1st April followed by another in off the sea at Spurn on 4th. Inland, a singing male appeared at Agden Side, Sheffield on 11th April, with another in Langdale Forest the following day. Spurn also logged two on 12th, followed by a major arrival of 15 on 15th there, which reduced to four the next day; otherwise Spurn logged just five other singles to 22nd May, with a subsequent late migrant on 7th June. Spurn's spring total of 38 bird/days was 21 fewer than the comparable figure the previous year. There were very few migrants noted elsewhere on the coast: a single flew north at South Gare on 15th April, two headed north at Boulby the next day, one appeared at Grimston on 19th, one frequented Long Nab on 29th April and singles were logged at Flamborough on 2nd and 16th May.

During the breeding season there were reports from Newton Wood, Westworth Wood, Guisborough Forest and Eston Nab within the North Yorkshire Moors, together with pairs reported from the Dalby, Langdale and Wykeham Forest complex. There were few reports from the Yorkshire Dales, although there were two pairs at Malham Tarn, where the first juveniles were seen on 2nd June. In contrast, in Upper Wharfedale there was a significant improvement in the number of occupied sites, with 15 territories compared to nine in 2008 and 11 in 2007; the main concentration was in the Washburn Valley, where there were six males at Stainburn Moor Plantation and five singing males in Bastow Wood on 16th June.

Elsewhere, three pairs were present in the Harrogate area, present at six sites around Halifax, although the only pair near Leeds occupied a territory at Otley Chevin. In the southern Pennines three males were at Carlecotes, whilst the largest concentrations remain in the Peak District with a maximum of 17 singing males at Wharncliffe Chase on 23rd June and four pairs at Swinden, Langsett.

In the lowlands there were several singing males on Thorne and Hatfield Moors and seven occupied territories at Strensall Common. Also near York, there were two singing males at Yearsley Moor and present during the breeding season at Skipwith Common, Allerthorpe Common and Gilling Woods.

The first migrants returned to Spurn on 14th, 21st/22nd July and then recorded regularly throughout August and September; all reports involved up to three, apart from four on 25th, seven on 29th August and four on 6th September. In total, Spurn logged 72 bird/days, less than half the number recorded the previous year. Similarly, up to two moved south during August on many days at Speeton and Hunmanby Gap. Flamborough's maximum related to three on 2nd September.

Inland there were fewer records, with six passing over Oxenhope during August, singles south–west at Winterset on 6th August and Redmires on 9th, where a further 18 flew south until the last there on 6th September. Elsewhere, Lemonroyd recorded one on 29th August, Worsbrough and Old Moor hosted singles on 31st August and a lone individual graced Wharncliffe Chase on 11th September. The last inland record related to a single at Malham on 24th September.

On the coast the latest sightings included: singles at Hummersea on 2nd October, Easington Gas Terminal on 10th and on three October dates at Spurn, with the last on 30th.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* **A**
Amber list: common resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 90/211: –18% (–16) 1995–2009, –19% (+12) 2008–09

There has been a moderate long–term national decline, and although in the county its strongholds remain on the moors, loss of marginal habitat may be contributing to local decline, and it is now of conservation concern. After BBS results showed an increase for the last three years, numbers were down in 2009.

There were widespread reports during the early months, but rarely involved in excess of five, with the following exceptions: 30 at both Star Carr, Scarborough on 5th and Worsbrough Res on 17th January, 20 at Silverwood Pit Tip on 20th January and 46 at Hatfield Moors on 28th January. Larger flocks were reported more regularly in February, including 45 on Hatfield Moors on 3rd, 40 at Horbury STW on 8th, and 32 at Lingham Lake, Harrogate on 22nd February.

Visible migration was evident across the region from the end of February. Spurn experienced a good spring passage, with 494 south and 1068 in off the sea from 11th February and 25th April; the latter then heading west/north–west. Passage peaked from mid–March to mid–April, with a maximum of 470 on 30th March, declining to 56 on 14th April. Other coastal records involved 50 at Filey on 30th March and 57 tracked north along the cliffs there on 5th April. Similarly, northerly movements in late March and April were apparent along the cliffs at Hummersea, with a best of 103 on 10th April.

Similar movements were widely reported inland, with 89 heading north–west at Northowram, Halifax on 9th March, 112 flew north at Redmires on 15th and 300 tracked north over Thruscross during ten hours in late March. Feeding flocks were also more evident, with 80 in a stubble field at Hay–a–Park GP on 16th March and 120 around Swillington Ings on 30th March. During this period numbers began to build up on the breeding grounds, with 200 at both Midhope Moor on 24th March and Wholestone Moor on 29th March.

As usual, there were numerous reports indicating a widespread upland breeding population, with the number of pairs in Wharfedale holding up; in contrast, it is thought to be in decline around Leeds. Breeding populations were inevitably much lower in the lowlands and coastal areas, although 19 pairs bred at Spurn.

Autumn migration was generally light with long periods of high pressure presumably allowing birds to just trickle through. A total of 13,848 flew south at Spurn between 23rd July and the end of November; there were only three counts over a thousand: 4200 on 6th, 2246 on 23rd and 1130 on 24th September. Elsewhere, smaller coastal movements included 1037 south over Speeton on 6th September, and 878 south there on 26th September, followed by 450 south over Flamborough on 10th October.

Inland Oxenhope recorded seven four–figure counts, with a maximum of 1657 on 6th September; in total 19,820 were recorded during the autumn, only marginally short of the previous site record. Similarly, 7100 were logged heading south over Stainburn Moor during September (over several sessions totalling 24 hours), 1000 in October (in 36 hours), dropping to 35 (in five hours) during November. The only other notable counts were: 765 south–west at Redmires on 6th September; 716 heading south–east over Hunter Hill and 618 south at Broadstones both on 26th September; and 600 south over Winterset Res on 6th September.

Small numbers typically remained inland during early December, with a maximum of 120 in the Swillington Ings area and 25 at Hatfield Moor on 29th. An unusual cold weather movement occurred on 19th/20th December, when 425 flew south at Flamborough and 608 tracked south at Spurn, respectively. During this period, large concentrations were also noted at Dewsbury STW, with a best of 120 on 23rd December.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus* **A**
Fairly common coastal resident, passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
Resident around rocky coastlines of Britain, Ireland and northern France.

It is very difficult to disentangle the movements and wintering populations of Fenno–Scandinavian birds, of the race *A.p.littoralis*, from the resident populations of the nominate race *petrosus*. Ringing recoveries suggest that populations of the race *petrosus* are generally resident, although there is evidence of local dispersive movements especially in populations in the north of the range (Wernham *et al.*, 2002). It is likely that the majority noted inland/on visible migration, refer to the race *littoralis*.

Few reports were received during January and February. Numbers increased at Spurn from four on 17th January to seven on 19th and 13 on 28th February; Flamborough recorded a best of ten on 4th February.

Passage at Spurn took place from 19th February to 30th March, with a maximum of seven on 28th February, and a total of 54 bird/days included 32 heading south and two in off the sea. During March there were several showing characteristics of the *littoralis* race, including singles at Flamborough on 6th and Filey Brigg on 18th. Unusually, there were no spring reports from inland locations.

During the breeding season reports were received from all the usual localities, though a pair holding territory at Blea Wyke could probably have been overlooked in previous years because of the hazardous nature of the site. A pair raised two broods at the traditional site on Marine Drive, Scarborough. At Filey breeding was again proved, with a family party of four on the Brigg on 2nd July, three weeks earlier than a similar sighting last year. Counts of five pairs at Hunt Cliff and nine pairs between Hummersea and Cowbar in June were a little down on the 20 pairs quoted in Joynt *et al.* (2008). Elsewhere, pairs were noted at Bempton Cliffs and Flamborough Head throughout the breeding season, but without any assessment of breeding numbers.

The autumn’s first flew south at Spurn on 10th September, where an excellent total of 638 flew south and 88 came in off the sea up to 26th December. High counts included 47 on 11th October, 57 on 13th, 58 on 15th and 46 on 19th October. Up to ten were grounded daily during October, and November’s high related to 21 on 2nd. Flamborough logged reasonable numbers, with maxima of 21 on 1st October, 12 on 10th and 24 on 11th November. There were regular records at Long Nab from 22nd June until 28th November; 57 flew south from July to November, with a peak of 14 on 18th October. During the same period numbers increased on Marine Drive, to reach a maximum of 13 on 10th October. Smaller numbers were also recorded heading south over Speeton, with a best of six on 25th September.

There were widespread reports of inland migrants after the first at Holme Moss on 19th September, followed by another south–west over Redmires the next day. A single also appeared on Hatfield Moors on 29th September; another arrived at Southfield Res the same day and stayed until 15th October. The number of sightings increased during October, with singles at Winterset Res on 3rd and 10th and two present on 24th October. Others were also recorded at Old Moor on 10th, 13th and 18th October and again on 7th November, with additional reports from Dewsbury STW, Hatfield Moors, Broomhill Flash, Edderthorpe, Rother Valley CP, Southfield Res (a second individual) and Brampton Bierlow.

Up to nine remained in residence at Flamborough towards the end of the year, whilst a single was recorded at Beal Carrs on 19th/20th and again on 30th December.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* **A** 28,39,31,54,30
Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant from Europe

This species breeds in the mountains of southern Europe, dispersing northwards to winter.

In the early months of the year there were few reports from Blacktoft Sands, the traditional stronghold of this species in Yorkshire.

Few appeared to be overwintering early on, but included a single at Coatham Marsh from 1st January until 15th March, with two present on 24th January; both spent long periods feeding on the dense mats of the highly invasive New Zealand Pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii* on the canal. The long stayer remained in residence at Fairburn throughout January and a single lingered at Snaygill Ings from 1st January to 23rd February. Elsewhere, up to two were present at Swillington Ings during January through until 15th February and a single visited Scalby Lodge Pond on 21st January. The only reports in March involved singles at Bransholme Fishing Ponds on 9th, the first site record, at Swine Moor on 18th and Hatfield Moors on 20th March. A single then proved popular for local patch listers at Potteric Carr on 14th April.

The first to return appeared at Coatham Marsh on 25th October; up to three then remained in residence there until the year–end. Filey Dams hosted two on 27th October and another two at Fairburn stayed into early November. Typically Blacktoft Sands attracted the largest numbers, with eight on 3rd November increasing to 12 on 13th; five were still present on 1st December. One again wintered at Snaygill Ings from 4th November and a single visited the Canal Scrape at Spurn on 17th November, but more obligingly, another showed well on the beach at South Landing, Flamborough from 13th November until 21st December. Unusually, a single at Redmires on 22nd November remained in this upland area until joined by another on 12th December.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* **A**
Red list and UK BAP subspecies (*flavissima*): uncommon and decreasing breeding summer visitor/passage migrant. BBS 24/211

The British race *flavissima* winters in West Africa and is decreasing (down nationally by 52% since 1995), probably due to changes in agricultural practices.

A male at New Kingswood, Hull on 3rd April arrived first, followed by a steady trickle, including two at Flamborough and one at Spurn the next day, singles at Hatfield Moors on 5th, Southfield Res on 6th, Filey the following day and three at Old Moor on 9th April. Thereafter, small numbers of returning migrants were reported daily in April, including 11 at Spurn on 30th. A total of 179 *flavas* flew south at Spurn between 10th April and 24th May, with maxima of 18 on 26th and 28th April and 16 on 1st May – a substantial reduction on 2008. Elsewhere, spring migrants included 12 at Swine Moor on 22nd April, 12 near Ravenscar the following day and 15 at Filey Dams on 27th April. Smaller numbers continued to move through until mid-May, with a peak of nine at Watton NR on 5th May. Inland, there were nine at Old Moor on 15th April and ten on Hatfield Moors on both 14th May and 10th June.

During the breeding season there were further declines in the uplands, but an apparent increase in the lowlands. In the Malham area, only one pair between Tarn Outflow and Low Trenhouse contrasted with the usual two or three pairs; however, up to four pairs bred as usual near Tennant Ghyll. In mid-Wharfedale the slow but inexorable decline continues, with only six breeding pairs present, when 11 pairs bred as recently as 2005. Pairs in suitable breeding habitat were reported throughout the Harrogate area, albeit in low numbers, with the majority breeding in arable crops, a poorly watched habitat.

Good numbers were widely reported from lowland areas in East and North Yorkshire, including up to five pairs in the Buckton/Speeton area, three pairs around Kelk Beck and seven pairs bred around Tophill Low. In the Scarborough area, there were three pairs at Yedingham, ten singing males at Staxton, four pairs on Binnington Carr and two pairs near Cromer Point. In South Yorkshire a pair probably bred at Edderthorpe, two pairs bred at Silverwood Pit Tip, near Rotherham, and several pairs bred at Hatfield Moors. There were very few reports from the Lower Aire Valley and no breeding reports at all from the Bradford, Leeds and Huddersfield areas.

At Spurn, migrants appeared from June, with daily sightings in July and August; peak counts involved 20 on 16th, 40 on 21st and 23rd August and 19 on 7th September. A total of 419 *flavas* passed south between 4th July and 28th September, a 25% increase on the previous year. High counts included 29 logged on 9th August, 81 on 28th, 44 on 29th August; 24 on 1st September, 27 on 2nd, and 28 on 8th September.

The largest concentrations were found on Hatfield Moors, where numbers increased from 20 on 10th August, to 70 on 17th, peaked at 180 on 21st August, before dropping back to 50 on 27th, 15 on 31st August and five on 6th September. At other locations maxima included: 20 at Southfield on 17th August, 19 at Speeton on 3rd September, 17 at Flamborough on 9th and 20 at both Filey CP on 11th and around Swillington from mid-August to mid-September. The number of sightings tailed-off towards the end of September, with singles south at Rod Moor and Winterset Res on 26th September, at Kelk and Hatfield Moors the next day, Carlton Marsh on 28th, Wombwell lngs the next day and two at Flamborough on 30th September. The last reports related to singles at Filey CP on 23rd October and Goole Moor on 27th.

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima* **A**

Passage migrant

Breeds in western continental Europe from Southern Scandinavia south to Northern Iberia and east to the Balkans.

An average year with the majority of reports coming from the Spurn area, where there were at least 16 different individuals recorded in the spring; Spurn's first made landfall on 12th April, four were present on 19th April and a single on 16th May represented the last. Elsewhere, three were at Grimston on 29th April.

Finally, Spurn hosted a male on 9th August, which represented the sole autumn record.

Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi* **A**

1,3,1,13,1

Rare migrant

Breeds in central and northern Scandinavia west to northern Siberia.

After the excesses of the previous year, back to normal, with the only record referring to a male near North Marsh, Flamborough on 16th May (CCT *et al.*).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* **A**

Amber list: uncommon resident in north and west; scarce passage migrant. BBS 19/211

Favours fast-flowing watercourses, and appears to be increasing in the north-west, but there are also more reports from lowland areas where it increasingly breeds. Breeding in the mountains of the Palearctic, continental birds migrate south and may account for some of our coastal records.

The highest counts during the early months included 14 at Dowley Gap, Bradford in February and seven at Treeton STW, Sheffield on 24th January, one of which had been ringed in Zeeland, Netherlands in 2007.

Small numbers of spring migrants included 13 south, three north and three in off the sea at Spurn between March and mid-May, with a maximum count of four on 14th March.

The breeding population appeared to be healthy, with no reports of declines. Perhaps surprisingly, many pairs were reported from lowland river valleys and sewage treatment works, with breeding reports from the centres of Sheffield and Rotherham. The highest densities were reported from the river Don, Sheffield where at least five pairs bred between Tin Mill Dam and Deepcar and seven individuals were in the Rivelin Valley on 31st March. Elsewhere, four pairs held territories at Thornton-le-Dale Beck, Scarborough.

Post-breeding dispersal was evident from June, with singles appearing at coastal sites. Elsewhere, flocks/family parties included 17 at Worsbrough Res on 1st August, 11 at Callis Bridge STW, Halifax on 2nd August and eight at Silkstone STW on 27th August.

Southerly movement peaked in early/mid September and included ten heading south-west over Redmires Res on 6th September. At Spurn, significantly fewer were reported than the previous year, with a total of 88 logged between 4th September and 15th November; bests of eight moved through on 10th and 29th October. Flamborough hosted eight on 20th September, followed by four on 26th October. Further inland, there were five at Old Moor on 5th September, four south at Winterset Res on 4th October and 13 on the river Porter, Sheffield on 5th October.

A melanistic individual visited Crimsworth Dean, Halifax on 13th July.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii* **A**

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

BBS 84/211: -29% (+3) 1995-2009, -19% (-10) 2008-09

The population in the county has been slightly declining, although with some increase noted in North Yorkshire. The British race *M. a. yarrellii* is mostly resident, but some move south.

The largest January and February concentrations were in inland, lowland and urban areas, typically at communal roosts, or in feeding flocks associated with sewage treatment works. Maxima during the early months included: 100 heading for a roost at Doncaster Lakeside on 13th January; 120 at Horbury STW on 24th January, increasing to 200 on 23rd February, before declining to 120 on 6th March; 100 at Dowley Gap STW in February, 70 at Pugney's CP on 26th January, 60 at Lemonroyd STW on various dates and 50 roosting at both Otley Hospital on 8th January and Carlton Marsh on 24th January and finally, 50 at Strensall STW on 3rd January. Very few were reported from coastal and upland areas during the early months.

Spring migration was evident from mid-February, but involved many fewer than recent years. At Spurn 120 flew south between 19th February and 30th May, less than half the number reported in 2008. Peak counts were 12 at Spurn on both 15th and 19th March and 36 at Flamborough on 25th March. Inland, numbers were higher, but also below par, with 50 at Callis Bridge on 25th March and 40 at Winterset Res on 28th March. As in previous years, a late spring movement was detected; the potential origin of 53 at Flamborough Head on 21st April remained unanswered, a date more typically associated with movements of White Wagtail.

Reports during the breeding season suggested no significant change in population, which was described as healthy in Wharfedale; recently fledged juveniles were reported from 12th May.

Few post-breeding flocks were reported, with a high of 70 at Hatfield Moors on 10th August, increasing to 100 there on 29th August, and 50 were present at Annat Royd on 22nd August.

Autumn migration was evident from mid-July, with passage again disappointing at Spurn, where 277 flew south between 6th September and 26th November, with maxima of 22 on 26th and 31 on 28th September. Other coastal counts involved 34 at Flamborough on 23rd September and 33 heading south at Speeton on 6th September. Inland, visible migration produced maxima of 41 south over Winterset Res on 4th October, 32 south at the same locality and 27 south at Stainburn Moor both on 27th September and 23 south at Rod Moor on 27th September.

Large roosts included 300 at Great Northern Street retail park, Huddersfield on 25th September, 200 at Bull Green, Halifax on 3rd October, 120 at Stocksbridge High School, Sheffield on 21st September and 63 at Filey CP on 22nd September. Feeding flocks included 70 at Hatfield Moors on 22nd September and 66 at Nosterfield NR and 56 at Roils Head the following day. Typically, towards the end of the year, the highest numbers were again reported from urban areas and sewage treatment works, with bests of 200 roosting on Parliament Street, York on 21st December and 120 at Dewsbury STW on 23rd December.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba* **A**

Passage migrant

Breeds in Iceland and northern Europe and winters in Africa.

The first reports were of singles at Old Moor on 12th March, Harthill Res the next day and Swine Moor on 15th, followed by further singles at Flamborough and Filey on 16th March, Ogden the following day, Lemonroyd STW on 19th and Nosterfield NR on 20th March. Spurn's first record related to two on 27th March, followed by up to two on 13 dates in April, and a single on 20th May; a total of 20 bird/days was relatively poor and contrasted with the excellent spring passage witnessed in 2008. Flamborough recorded 19 bird/days, with a maximum of three on 21st April and the last present on 30th April. Further north coastal records included three in Harwood Dale on 30th March, four at Scalby Lodge Pond on 1st April and three at both Filey on 11th and Seamer Business Park on 23rd April.

Inland, there was a trickle of sightings, with three at Tophill Low on 4th April, duos recorded at Old Moor on 8th, Swine Moor on 10th/19th April, Dewsbury STW on 12th/28th and Hornsea Mere on 17th April. Four frequented Old Moor on 24th April, three visited Gouthwaite Res the next day, two appeared at Atwick on 26th and Orgreave Lakes hosted four on 29th April. The number of reports during May was higher than in recent years, starting with singles at Blackmoorfoot Res on 1st May, Swine Moor on 3rd and two at both Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 8th and Lingham Lake on 10th, with a further single at Old Moor on 12th May. Spring's last appeared on Kirkbymoorside GC on 24th May.

Typically, there were very few confirmed autumn reports, with singles at Filey CP and Flamborough on 29th August and others at Redmires on 6th and 20th September. The year's last appeared at Thrybergh CP on 4th October.



White Wagtail •
Colin Wilkinson

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus* **A**

Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor, usually uncommon

Breeds from northern Scandinavia eastwards through the coniferous zone, including North America.

The first winter period was awash with parties thrilling birders at many inland sites through until early May; up to 25 graced Cold Hiendley from the opening day until 11th January, with additional groups of 31 in Harrogate, 60 in Huddersfield, 50 in Leeds, 80 at Totley and 70 at Bingley during the first week. In addition, smaller numbers visited numerous sites including Lemonroyd SF, Old Moor, Edderthorpe, Meadowhall, Acomb, Strensall, Fairburn Ings, Brighouse, Halifax, Skipton, Holmfirth and Hull.

Numbers increased at several locations during the second week of January, including 35 at Asda, Harrogate, 30 at Stannington and Skipton, 67 at St James's Hospital, Leeds and 60 at Kingswood retail park, Hull. A flock of 40 at Birstall on 10th January, increased to 68 on 13th, then 80 on 18th, peaked at 102 the following day, with

100 still present on 19th March and 80 on 25th March. On 12th January larger flocks included 30 at Broomhill, 80 at Walkley and 61 at Yarm, while the next day Morley hosted 100. A flock of 40 in the third week of January at Hackenthorpe, Sheffield, increased to 80 on 20th, with 121 present the following day. Northallerton hosted 50 on 18th followed by 25 in Bradford on 20th and 40 in Nunthorpe and 30 in Hessle the next day. Flocks continued to build and 100 visited Beighton Marsh NR and 200 were at Woodhouse Tip on 22nd and 150 graced Bramley the following day. The final few days of January also produced 243 at Locke Park, Barnsley on 29th and 155 at Jennyfields, Harrogate on 31st.

Although flocks were well distributed during February, they were mainly concentrated in the south-west; 92 visited Staincross Common on the opening day and 94 were at Yeadon and 150 in the Kingswood Drive area of Leeds on 2nd. In South Yorkshire, numbers fluctuated in the Old Moor/Manvers Lake area, with a best of 193 on 3rd February. The following day Otley hosted 70 and slightly further east than most, 50 were in York on 5th. A flock at Catcliffe increased to 150 on 9th February, with 220 at nearby Banner Cross, Sheffield two days later. Bolton Road, Bradford was graced by a flock of 100 on 12th February, but better still, 380 congregated at Crosspool in Sheffield on 16th; 53 in Scarborough on the latter date were isolated in the east. On 19th February a flock of 100 visited Birstall and 80 were in Dewsbury on 22nd. The actual numbers involved continued to be nothing more than a 'guestimate', with mobile groups touring inland conurbations; a flock at Handsworth increased to 200 on 28th February, with an additional 100 at Meltham near Huddersfield the same day.

March opened with 80 at Haxby on 1st and 150 were still touring Handsworth two days later. With most still in the south-west reaches of the county, a flock of 53 at Cottingham on 4th was noteworthy. The latter half of March witnessed a reduction in flock sizes and a subtle increase in flocks in the east; 52 visited Beckfield Lane in York on 20th, 80 remained in Birstall on 25th and 54 were in Cottingham on 28th.

April opened with 41 at Greengates, Bradford on 1st followed by an increase to 90 at Cottingham the next day. Osmondthorpe, Leeds then hosted 90 on 7th April, while 100 visited Lemonroyd SW two days later, and 50 were in Wakefield on 11th. A flock at Hillsborough Park mid-month increased to 120 on 15th/16th and another flock at Bootham Park Hospital, York peaked at 68 on 16th. Flock sizes then gradually decreased and the last week of April produced 25 at Cross Flatts on 24th, six at Conisbrough the next day, seven at Moortown and two at Chapeltown on 27th. The last record related to a party of 15 at Hillsborough on 5th May.

In contrast, the latter half of the year was very quiet; a single made landfall in coastal bushes alongside Flamborough GC on 18th October, two visited Crosspool, Sheffield on 17th November and another appeared briefly at Spurn on 24th November.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* **A**

Uncommon resident on higher ground in north and west. BBS 6/211

Nationally stable population of the race *gularis*.

Records in the north-east were almost entirely confined to Skelton Beck, where up to four were present in January; breeding was confirmed in May, with at least one juvenile present. In addition, a single on the river Leven on 2nd July indicated potential breeding. On the southern edge of the North Yorkshire Moors pairs bred at three sites west of Scarborough: at Low Dalby, Hilla Green and Wrench Green. Elsewhere, six were present at Duncombe Park on 7th October, singles were in the vicinity of Thornton-le-Dale during the final three months of the year and a single visited Ellerburn on 30th October and again on 5th December.

Pairs bred at 11 sites in the western half of the Sheffield, with 37 ringed from 14 broods; the only record from the east of the recording area related to a single at Treeton Dyke on 19th December. Six pairs bred on the river Don, including two pairs at Deepcar, and another two pairs bred in the Little Don Valley. At least three pairs bred near Huddersfield, with pairs present during the breeding season at a further three sites. There was no evidence of a change of status around Halifax, with records from 31 sites and indications of potential breeding from nine of these. However, it was a very disappointing year around Leeds, with singles at Pool Paper Mills on 4th February and 2nd March, and Rodley NR on 20th and 27th September, the only records.

Within the Bradford area, pairs bred at Shipley Glen, Cottingley, Leeshaw, and near St Ives. The population in the Upper Wharfedale recording area appears to have suffered after the wet 2007 and 2008 summers and then exacerbated by the colder than average 2008/9 winter. However, it was still widely recorded along the Wharfe to the top end of Oughtershaw and from Littondale. There were also more records from the Washburn than usual, with regular reports from the lower part of the valley. A juvenile was recorded at Norwood Bottom and there was evidence of successful breeding at the Ben Rhydding toll bridge and there were two nests at Oughtershaw. The Wharfe between Bolton Abbey and Howgill continues to be a stronghold, with at least six pairs present during the breeding season.

WREN <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> A Abundant resident; passage migrant in small numbers BBS 185/211: +47% (+14) 1995–2009, –25% (–10) 2008–09 After a harsher winter, unsurprisingly the increase in numbers noted since 1995 was reversed this year; it was also replaced as the county’s most widespread BBS species by Woodpigeon. Although the cold winter seemed to have little impact on numbers in the lowland areas of Bradford and Halifax, there were notable declines in high altitude sites, such as Malham Tarn. Widespread breeding records included the following densities of territorial males: 13 singing at Bransholme Fishing Ponds in late April, 15 at Went Ings in May, 18 in the Little Don Valley in June and 50 pairs at Fairburn Ings and 20 pairs at Spurn. Higher counts included 33 along the river Ouse between York and Naburn on 24th April, 25 at Hatfield Moors on 26th October and 38 at Allerthorpe Common on 29th December. Evidence of coastal passage included 14 on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 30th September and 20 at Long Nab on 22nd October. Further south, there were 35 at Flamborough on 22nd October and 16 logged there on 28th, followed by 16 on 4th November and 20 on 11th. Numbers also increased at Spurn during October, with a maximum of 45 on 7th.	
DUNNOCK <i>Prunella modularis</i> A Amber list and UK BAP species: abundant resident; passage migrant BBS 146/211: +4% (+15) 1995–2009, –9% (+1) 2008–09 The very sedentary British race <i>occidentalis</i> appeared to suffer a slight decline in the county this year. Nominate <i>modularis</i> from Fennoscandia and north–east Europe occur on migration on the coast. Probably under–recorded in BBS surveys. Once again there were very few records of note for a species that remains widespread and common. Breeding records included 18 pairs at Fairburn Ings (23 in 2008) and 23 territories at Spurn (as in 2008). There was some evidence of coastal passage, starting with 40 at Spurn on 23rd September, 30 on 22nd November and 35 still present there on 30th December. Elsewhere, the peak counts all came in October with: 25 at Flamborough on 10th, 45 on 22nd and 32 on 28th; Scarborough Castle attracted 25 on 11th, with 23 at Long Nab on 22nd and, finally, Hummersea hosted 18 on 31st October.	
ROBIN <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> A Common to abundant resident; passage migrant and winter visitor BBS 162/211: +65% (+27) 1995–2009, +7% (–4) 2008–09 The resident and largely sedentary British race <i>melophilus</i> has been increasing in the county since 2002. Falls of the nominate race <i>rubecula</i> occur on the east coast, particularly in October, and these are probably of Fennoscandian and south Baltic origin. They pass through to wintering grounds further south. There was some evidence of spring passage, starting with 11 at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 15th March and a peak of nine at Spurn on 13th April. Away from the coast, the only notable counts were 26 at Thorpe Marsh on 20th March and 26 at Thrybergh on 29th March. There were few indications of any changes in breeding status, apart from at Swillington Ings, where the number of singing males almost doubled; nearby, Fairburn Ings hosted 31 pairs. There was a fairly light coastal influx during September, with Spurn recording 28 on 6th and 40 on 13th. The first half of October produced 31 at Filey on 11th and 32 at Spurn on 13th, but larger numbers appeared in the latter half of the month. There were 30 at Long Nab and 73 at Spurn on 22nd October, followed by 17 at Flamborough and 20 at Buckton the following day; several of those trapped clearly showed features of the greyer, continental form. Inland, 25 were present at Thrybergh CP on 7th October.	
THRUSH NIGHTINGALE <i>Luscinia Luscinia</i> A Vagrant; 13 previous records A widespread breeder in eastern Europe; following a dramatic population increase in the 20th century, its range now stretches from Denmark south–east to Romania and temperate Russia. Winters in east Africa from Kenya south to Zimbabwe. A singing male was seen briefly at Kew Villa, Kilnsea on 15th May (DWo <i>et al.</i>); although not seen again, it launched into full song on several occasions the following day. Incredibly the Spurn area has provided 13 of the 14 county records, with the other in Locke Park, Redcar in May 1967.	0,1,0,2,1
NIGHTINGALE <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> A Amber list: rare breeding summer visitor in the south and rare passage migrant * Running totals refer only to migrants A decreasing summer visitor with the vast majority of the breeding population concentrated in the south–east of England. Most winter in Africa, south of the Sahara. Clearly in trouble, the population on Thorne Moors was reduced to a single at Will Pits on 24th May. Despite searching, there were no further records during several night visits in May and June. An elusive migrant was discovered by Canal Scrape, Spurn during mid–afternoon on 2nd May and then showed periodically until dark in Little Hedge (PWr <i>et al.</i>). Another skulked in a garden at Stone Creek on 25th May.	1,1,1,2,2 *
BLUETHROAT <i>Luscinia svecica</i> A Scarce passage migrant; occasional rare breeding species The species breeds across the Palaearctic from Spain to Siberia. The red–spotted race <i>svecica</i> breeds north of the Baltic to Alaska, and has bred in Scotland. The white–spotted forms <i>cyanecula</i> and <i>namnetum</i> breed from Spain to the Baltic States and this form has bred in the county, most recently at Thorne Moors. A singing male of the ‘red–spotted’ race appeared on the Canal Bank at Spurn on 12th May, but later flew into nearby sea buckthorn and promptly vanished (JCa <i>et al.</i>).	1,2,6,8,1
RED–FLANKED BLUETAIL <i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i> A Vagrant; three previous records A small population breeds in north–east Finland, but the main breeding range consists of the temperate forests from Russia east to Kamchatka. It winters in south–east Asia through to northern Thailand. Visitors hoping to see a Radde’s Warbler in the Crown & Anchor car park at Kilnsea on 17th October were instead rewarded by the discovery of a superb first–year; it showed briefly on several occasions, before being trapped at nearby Kew Villa. After being released into the Little Hedge, it remained until mid–afternoon before disappearing. Incredibly, a second individual was also discovered at the nearby Point the same day and then showed well to everyone on 18th October (SNa <i>et al.</i>). It was trapped in the Heligoland late afternoon and remained in residence until 19th; thought to have then left, it was surprisingly refound on 26th and was still present the following day. The county’s third of the autumn made landfall at Bempton on 23rd October and remained until 25th (TD <i>et al.</i>). It showed very well at times around the car–park and, with its stay coinciding with a weekend, was appreciated by large numbers of visiting birders. The three previous records were of singles at Skinningrove in September 2001, Easington in March 2007 and Flamborough in October 2007.	0,0,2,0,3
BLACK REDSTART <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> A Amber list: rare breeder; uncommon passage migrant; rare winter visitor Breeds from North Africa to southern Scandinavia, locally in SE England, typically on derelict sites or in town centres, wintering in the south of its range. A single remained in residence on a demolition site at Beverley from New Year’s Day through to at least 14th February, with another gracing Robin Hood’s Bay on 28th February. The first migrants started to appear in March, beginning with singles at Hunmanby Gap on 11th, Kilnsea on 18th (with another four around Spurn before the month end) and Flamborough on 21st/22nd March. More unusually, one frequented Whetstone Gate, Bradford from 27th–29th and three were at Swillington Ings on 28th March. The month ended with a single at Thornwick Bay, Flamborough on 29th, there were two at Flamborough the following day, with others at Kilnsea, East Newton and Aldbrough and three at Flamborough on 31st March. In April up to three were present almost daily at Spurn until 22nd. Additional singles appeared at Grimston on 1st April and Sammy’s Point, Scarborough Castle, Harewood and Filey on 3rd. After one at Easington on 5th April, another appeared inland at Burley Moor on 7th; a single was in the Kilnsea area on 11th and 15th when another visited Filey. Four made landfall at Spurn on 16th, with three remaining on 17th and two the next day. Singles also graced Flamborough on 17th, Sammy’s Point on 19th, Kilnsea on 21st, followed by two at Spurn on 22nd. May produced singles at Spurn on 1st/2nd May, 23rd/24th and the last on 29th. The only other records during the latter month related to a female at Ravenscar on 2nd and a male at Scarborough on 24th/25th May. Boulby hosted a presumed migrant on 4th June with another at Flamborough on 8th; however, more interestingly a singing male was at Meadowhall Bus Terminal, Sheffield on 25th June. Several appeared in July, starting with one at Spurn on 4th July, followed by singles at Flamborough on 17th July, Spurn on 19th–23rd, with another there on 22nd/23rd.	

The only August record related to a juvenile that remained in residence around Withens Gap, near Halifax from 21st through until 25th September.

October produced the expected flurry of sightings starting with one at Flamborough on 10th, followed by singles at Filey and Spurn on 11th, another at the latter site on 14th, three at Flamborough and a single at South Gare on 15th. In the latter half of October there were singles at Kilnsea and Atwick on 16th; Kilnsea again on 18th; Easington the next day; and Filey from 20th–24th. An influx took place at the start of the fourth week in October, with three at Bempton Cliffs, a single at Spurn and another at Cornelian Bay, Scarborough on 22nd. The next day there were three at Flamborough and another at Spurn, followed by one at Easington and again three at Flamborough on 25th October. Singles remained in residence at Bempton and Flamborough on 26th, with another at Brough Haven the same day. October closed with a single at Filey on 28th and lone individuals at both Spurn and Flamborough on 30th.

Flamborough hosted a single on 2nd November, with another at Kilnsea on 9th and two at Spurn the next day. Inland, a single appeared at Oxenhope near Bradford on 21st November. South Gare hosted a single on 8th December, followed by one at Scarborough the following day and another took up residence around the Fog Station, Flamborough from New Year's Eve.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 9/211

A locally declining trans-Saharan migrant.

A single at Rocher Wood on 3rd April represented the first, followed by another at Barmston the following day and singles at Filey on 8th and Flamborough on 9th. Eleven bird/days were recorded at Filey during the spring, with two present on 15th May. Flamborough fared little better, with 18 bird/days logged until the last moved through on 24th May; three on 16th May represented the best daily total. Up to four were noted daily at Spurn from 12th–26th April, with a peak of 11 on 15th May and 48 bird/days were recorded during the spring.

Woodlands fringing the southern edge of the North Yorkshire Moors continue to hold a population, as illustrated by singing males in Helwath Wood (two), Scar Wood, Jugga Howe Beck (three), Pennyhowe Forest (two) and Crosscliffe, all to the west of Scarborough. A brood of six was ringed at Ashberry and seven young were ringed at Nettledale within Ryedale, with adults also present during the breeding season at Sykes, Gilling, Yearsley, Rievaulx, Hawaby, Bransdale and Dale Town Common. A pair bred in the Yorkshire Wolds at Wharrah Percy, although the true status in these underwatched valleys is hard to assess.

The population in the Sheffield area seemed to have a better year and included eight between Rocher Wood and High Bradfield on 24th April; breeding was proved at Wharnccliffe Wood/Chase, Ewden Beck, Langsett Res and Rocher Wood. The Little Don Valley hosted two territorial males and another singing male frequented Cliff Wood. In the Huddersfield recording area, singing males were heard at: Butterley Res, Crossley's Plantation, Elysium Fields (two), Holme Styes and Riding Wood Res. The Wharfedale/Washburn population appeared to be doing well, with up to 12 present in the Washburn Valley and 12 between Lindley Wood and Folly Hall Wood on 21st April. Other high counts included six in Grass Woods on 22nd April, six at John O'Gaunts on 23rd May and eight near Buckden on 30th May. Strid Woods appeared to host only a single pair; 25 young were rung in four nests within the Washburn area. Although presumed to be breeding at several sites within the Harrogate area, there was no proof, although three males were present at Haverah Park and two singing at Ripon Parks. Further north, the decline in the Malham area appears to have stalled and four pairs probably bred there on the estate.

Coastal migration re-started with two at Spurn on 6th August; thereafter, up to three appeared at Spurn during the month, with six present on 30th August. Passage improved during September, with ten at Spurn on 15th and 16 on 18th. Smaller numbers were also present at other coastal sites, including six at Flamborough on 19th September. The last records related to singles at Spurn on 25th October and Flamborough on 28th October.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* **A**

Amber list: uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 4/211

A nationally declining migrant that winters in Africa. Recent evidence suggests a decrease in its breeding range in the Pennines. There was an increase in reporting nationally this year, and locally was reported from four BBS squares, an increase of three.

Inland an early single appeared at Hagg Lane, York on 5th April followed by singles at Old Moor on 12th and Withens Gap on 21st April. Along the coast the first migrant appeared at Spurn on 23rd April, with another at Filey the following day and two at Hunt Cliff on 25th April. In keeping with several locations, Buckton experienced a small fall on 15th May, with five making landfall during the day. Passage was light with 16 bird/days at Flamborough between 27th April–23rd May and a best of three on 15th May. Similarly there were records of up

to three at Spurn until the last on 31st May, with a maximum of four on 15th May; a total of 25 bird/days was one of Spurn's worst spring totals on record.

On the North Yorkshire Moors, two pairs were present on Fylingdales Moor and a pair bred at Biller How Dale Slack, near Scarborough. In the lowlands Strensall Common hosted six pairs during the summer. West of Sheffield pairs bred at Broomhead Moor, Redmires Res, Dukes Road and Agden Beck and singing males were recorded at Strines Moor, Cowell Flats, Blacka Moor (two), Ewden Beck and Fairthorn Clough. Near Huddersfield three pairs bred at Deer Hill, and additional pairs bred at Butterley Res, Wessenden Head, Dean Head and Scammonden Dam. The Halifax area held breeding pairs at Withens Clough, Withens Gap, Walshaw Dean and Widdop. Further north there was evidence of breeding from Farnhill Moor, Whetstone Gate, Rombalds Moor and Middleton Moor. Pairs were present during the breeding season at Upper Skell, Steelhouse and Birk Gill, all within the Harrogate recording area.

Autumn passage was reasonable and started with a single at Flamborough on 29th July. There were records on seven dates in the Scarborough area, with bests of four on 22nd August and again on 5th September, and no more than two logged on five dates at Filey. Flamborough hosted 14 on 7th September, although Spurn attracted by far the majority, including 18 on 27th August, 30 on 30th August, 25 on 6th September and 16 on 18th September. Inland, Swillington Ings hosted 11 on 8th September. Singles at Spurn on 10th October, Flamborough on 15th and Reighton on 17th October were the last.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus* **A**

Scarce breeding resident and uncommon autumn/winter visitor. BBS 7/211

The race found in Britain, *hibernans*, has been increasing nationally at a rapid rate (+170% 1994–2008) and this is reflected locally, but a 31% decrease was noted nationally this year. Continental passage birds can occur on the coast.

Up to five frequented the Spurn area from the start of January, with six present on 4th and 15th March. Further north three were at Flamborough and five at Filey in early January and the moors between Stoupe Brow/Whitby Road, north of Scarborough, hosted 12 on 14th January. One of the best inland counts related to five at Bolton Ings on 14th February. Grimston hosted four on 2nd March, followed by four at Whitwell Moor on 13th and five were at March Ghyll Res on 29th.

Breeding was proved at numerous sites across the county, with pairs now well established along the eastern fringe. The coast between Boulby and Brotton held five pairs, with others at Eston Moor and Scaling Dam. Near Scarborough five pairs were on territory at Jugga Howe Beck, two pairs bred at Stony Marl Moor and another fledged young at Jackson's Bay. A pair raised two broods near Filey Yacht Club and another pair bred at Flamborough. Breeding was also confirmed at Spurn for the first time, and although the first brood was predated, a second succeeded in fledging two young.



Stonechat •
Ray Scally

Further west there was evidence of a decline in records, presumably the result of cold weather at the start of the year. Although breeding pairs were well represented across Upper Wharfedale, records were received from only 23 sites during the course of the year (32 the previous year), with the decline more dramatic in the northern reaches of the recording area. This decrease was also reflected within the Halifax recording area, with 51 records received (compared to 263 in 2007 and 194 in 2008) and five pairs bred.

Coastal passage started in mid–September, with 11 at Spurn on 17th and 16 at Flamborough the next day. Flamborough hosted eight and Buckton seven on 4th October, nine were at South Gare on 18th and eight at Cromer Point/Scalby Nab on 22nd. Spurn recorded more than ten on most October days, with a best of 23 on 23rd, and finally, nine graced Flamborough on 28th. Away from the coast four appeared at Silverwood Lagoon on 5th October and seven visited Bolton Ings on 31st October. November maxima included four at Edderthorpe in mid–November; 12 at Langdale Forest on 10th November; and finally, eight at Fylingdales on 11th November.

Six over–wintered at Spurn at the year–end, with a similar tally at Bolton Ings throughout December.

Several individuals showing characteristics of the Continental race *S. t. rubicola* were reported from coastal sites, including a single trapped at The Warren, Spurn on 16th April, which remained until 20th. This was followed by a male at Spurn on 3rd/4th May and another at Sammy’s Point from 15th–19th May.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* **A**

Amber list: scarce breeding summer visitor; uncommon passage migrant. BBS 43/211

Widespread in Europe and as far north as Greenland, wintering in Africa south of the Sahara. Has previously declined markedly in its breeding range on the Pennines, although a small national increase was noted this year.

The first returned simultaneously on the coast and inland, with singles at Spurn and Soil Hill on 14th March, followed by lone individuals at Staveley NR, Malham, Roper Hill (Sheffield) and Oxenhope the following day. Four that arrived at South Gare on 18th were the first in the north–eastern corner of the county. Numbers increased at the end of March, with ten at Kilnsea on 30th and six at Scar House Res and three at Flamborough the next day. Immigration accelerated at the start of April, with 17 at Trough Lane and 20 at Thornton Moor, 22 at Spurn on 4th and 22 at Hummersea and 17 at Soil Hill on 10th April. The next significant arrival took place on 26th April and included coastal tallies of 61 at Flamborough, 44 at Spurn and ten at both Cloughton and Filey; Fylingdales then hosted 24 on 29th April. Passage continued into May, with ten at Gerrick Moor and Soil Hill on 2nd May, 12 at Wharnccliffe Chase and 18 at Whitley Airfield, Huddersfield on 7th and 20 at Spurn on 8th/9th, with 12 at Flamborough on the former date.

A pair bred at Rosedale in the North Yorkshire Moors. Breeding was also confirmed near Todmorden, where a pair and two juveniles were present on 10th June and a male accompanied by three juveniles were together at Fylingdales on the North Yorkshire Moors on 24th. In the South Pennines a recently fledged juvenile was in the Burbage Valley near Sheffield on 11th July. Within the Calderdale/Bradford areas, breeding was possible around Whiteholme, Warley Moor and Fly Flats. However, the main centre of population was further north; considered to be widespread within Upper Wharfedale, a fairly common summer visitor to the uplands west of Harrogate and common around Malham.

Inland, 20 congregated at Whiteholme on 10th August, but the main coastal movement took place at the end of the month; Spurn hosted 23 and Flamborough ten on 30th August, with a further 16 at the latter site on 2nd September. A further pulse took place in mid–September, with 15 at Spurn on 15th and 13 on 18th; at the month end Spurn attracted 19 on 26th and 14 on 30th. Records in the latter half of October included singles at: Hundale on 17th, Spurn the next day, Henside/Capon Hill on 20th, Nosterfield NR on 24th and Threshfield Moor on 31st October.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 10/211

Breeds in upland Britain, but principally a passage migrant from northern Africa/southern Europe.

An unusual but not unprecedented record related to a single discovered on the cliff edge at Flamborough Golf Course on 11th February.

In the north–east of the county the first spring migrant made landfall at Hummersea on 3rd April, followed by four there on 10th. At least five lingered on cliffs between Warsett Hill and Hunt Cliff from 18th–26th April, six were in Sleddale on 19th April and Hummersea again hosted a single on 29th; one then appeared at Boulby on 9th May.

Further south, Scarborough’s earliest ever at RAF Fylingdales on 2nd March preceded a male at Cloughton Station on 23rd March. Two graced the Scarborough area on 29th April: singles appearing at Fylingdales and Cloughton. Filey’s first arrived on 12th April and there were five further reports until the last on 10th May, while Flamborough’s sole spring migrants appeared on 10th and 23rd April. The relatively poor spring was also reflected

at Spurn, where a mere ten bird/days were logged. Two on 4th April were the year’s first and a single at the Point on 20th May represented the month’s only record.

Inland a pair appeared at Reeking Gill on the North Yorkshire Moors on 25th March, with a widespread arrival taking place from 29th March. Six males at Kepwick Quarry near the Cleveland Way on 10th April and nine at Walshaw Dean, Halifax the next day undoubtedly related to birds on passage.

For the tenth year, a detailed breeding survey was conducted on the North Yorkshire Moors and focused on a 25sq/km area around Rosedale. Pairs occupied nine territories in total, compared to a maximum of 16 in both 2002 and 2003; either singles or pairs were also recorded at 20 other sites outside of the core study area, including a pair at Ousegill Bridge in Bransdale that hatched four pulli. The study revealed that 3.80 young fledged/pair, which was above the ten–year average of 2.99.

Along the Pennines two pairs bred at Burbage Edge and there were territorial males at Strines Moor, Mickleden Beck and at least two in the Upper Little Don Valley, two at Sugden Clough and two at Broomhead Moor. There were no breeding reports from either the Huddersfield or Bradford areas, while a pair bred at Gorpley Quarry and probably bred at Widdop and Lower Gorple near Halifax. In addition, pairs probably bred within the Harrogate recording area at Agill, Scar House Res and below Stope Bridge at Dallowgill. Unfortunately the population within Upper Wharfedale continues to decline, with only five records of transitory migrants in the south and breeding unproven in the north of the recording area.

During the autumn, a single visited South Gare on 10th October, while there were two records from Scarborough: singles at the Castle on 19th and at Long Nab on 31st October. Filey’s first of the autumn made landfall on 10th October, followed by a single on 14th, two present the following day and another on 16th October. A total of 41 bird/days were logged at Flamborough, although the vast majority of records were confined to the second week of October: 24 appeared in an influx on 10th and 12 were present on 14th October. In contrast, Spurn experienced another quiet autumn with just 16 bird/days, including three on 10th October (when a further three were north of the observatory recording area). A late single visited Sammy’s Point on 9th November.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* **A**

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

BBS 185/211: +60% (+23) 1995–2009, –12% (–5) 2008–09

The population has been steadily increasing although numbers were slightly down this year.

Spring passage was evident at both Flamborough and Spurn and peaked during the latter half of March. Flamborough logged 287 bird/days during the second half of the month, with a best of 52 on 21st March. Seventy arrived at Spurn on 16th March; only 40 remained the following day, but numbers then built further to peak at 165 on 19th March.

Obviously a very widespread breeder, densities were illustrated by 33 pairs at Tophill Low; 50 singing males in SK3611 at Royston; 102 singing males in SE4100 at South Kirby; 78 singing males at Hemsworth; 25 singing males in Middleton Woods and 27 pairs at Fairburn Ings.

Autumn immigration was hardly evident in the north–east of the county, with 45 at Hummersea on 31st October the highest count. Further south, ten at Long Nab, Scarborough on 16th September represented a higher than normal count, followed by 40 at Scarborough Castle on 30th. During October the latter site hosted 80 on 15th, 65 made landfall at Long Nab on 22nd, 400 were on the Castle on 27th and finally, 140 were at Long Nab on 31st October. West of Scarborough, an influx at Flotmanby on 3rd November produced 300 and these were accompanied by 150 Redwing and only 20 Fieldfare.

At Filey 1000 made landfall on 10th October, with another pulse of 200 appearing on 14th and 100 were grounded at nearby Buckton the next day. Numbers at Filey peaked on 27th October, when 2500 came in off, and the month ended with 300 grounded there on 31st. Appreciable numbers were still evident in early December and included 320 at Filey on 2nd. Reflecting the better than average numbers at Filey, October passage was also considered excellent at Flamborough, where 8366 bird/days were logged during the month, including 2300 on 14th, 1440 on 27th and 2200 on 31st October; an additional 200 were at Buckton on the latter date. A total of 150 at Flamborough on 9th November was the month’s best tally. Spurn’s first arrival took place on 10th October, when 350 were recorded, and other notable counts included: 500 on 14th, 300 on 15th, 1750 on 27th and 1740 on 31st October. In addition, 215 were present at Spurn on 10th November, followed by 350 on 2nd December and 105 on New Year’s Eve.

The influx along the coast was also mirrored to a lesser extent at inland sites, including 60 at Farnham GP on 22nd October; 89 at Thrybergh CP on 31st October, 50 at Winterset on 11th November and 80 at Kelk on 29th November.

A ringing study in a garden at Sharow Grange trapped 99 adults and 14 juveniles during the year, including a German–ringed adult male caught on 22nd December.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* **A**

Red list: common passage migrant and winter visitor. Has bred. BBS 2/211

An entirely migratory species that breeds in Scandinavia and northern Europe east to Siberia, often passing through the county to winter further south and west. Presumably late migrants were recorded in BBS squares.

Large flocks at the start of the year included 455 at Broadstones Res on 1st January and 700 on Whitley Common on 17th January. Westbound movements of 300 over Harden and 800 at Hartcliff Hill on 7th February were presumably triggered by an end to the cold snap. Cayton Carr attracted a flock of 500 on 15th February, 471 gathered in Colsterdale on 22nd February, 1000 were in fields adjacent to Ingbirchworth Res on 17th March and there were 550 at White Lee Moor on 25th March. Further large flocks assembled prior to emigration, with 500 at Morton Banks, Bradford during April and 600 at Royd Moor Res and 500 below Draughton Heights, Wharfedale both on 10th April.

Passage was visible at Spurn, where 56 on 12th April increased to 75 the following day; late migrants included singles at Filey on 8th May and Spurn on 10th May; inland, a late single appeared at Marsden, Huddersfield on 17th May.

A duo over Thruscross during a visible migration watch on 1st August was an unusual record. The next appeared over Thornton Moor on 11th September, followed by two at Yeadon Tarn on 16th and four north-west over Speeton on 27th September.

On the coast a single at Spurn on 9th October preceded 11 at Filey the next day, but numbers still remained low until an appreciable arrival on 27th October: 1250 headed inland in an hour over Castle Hill, Scarborough; 1700 made landfall at Filey; 14,395 came in off during a 'vis mig' watch at Flamborough (KC *et al.*) and 8500 were logged at Spurn. Otherwise, there were very few appreciable coastal counts, with a best of 283 at Spurn on 3rd November.

Looking at the pattern of inland movements, it becomes apparent that many arrivals remain undetected on the coast, although the large influx on 27th October was picked up across the county. The first significant movement was detected by 'vis mig' enthusiasts on 13th October, when 754 tracked south-west over Hunter Hill, Halifax and 743 flew south over Stainburn Moor. On 17th October 3381 flew north over Oxenhope, 3338 headed north over Stainburn Moor and 1401 flew south-west over Hunter Hill; the following day 1576 tracked north over Oxenhope and 1062 went south-west over Pule Hill, Marsden, before 661 flew south over Oxenhope on 19th October. A movement of 740 south-west over Redmires Res on 25th October acted as the precursor to a substantial arrival on 27th: 6164 flew north over Oxenhope, 1600 flew over Old Moor, 1200 tracked west over Winterset, 780 headed west over Southfield Res, 2000 overflowed Thorne Moors, 2150 headed south-west over Potteric Carr and 1148 moved over Sothall, Sheffield. Large numbers continued to infiltrate inland areas on 28th, as illustrated by 642 south over Oxenhope, 3470 south over Stainburn Moor, 1310 south-west over Redmires Res and 420 similarly south-west over Holbrook; 1699 subsequently flew south over Oxenhope on 29th October.

Arrivals continued during the first half of November, beginning with 600 over Kirklevington on 3rd, 715 headed south over Stainburn Moor and 740 tracked south over Silverwood Lagoon the next day, with 1972 south-west at Hunter Hill and 1750 south over Oxenhope on 5th November. The following day, 804 went north over Oxenhope, 1238 flew west over Queensbury on 8th November and 1557 flew over Hunter Hill and 5724 headed south over Oxenhope on 10th November. A total of 500 grounded at Redmires Res on 15th preceded 1000 feeding alongside Broomhead Res on 25th November.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

BBS 128/211: +56% (+25) 1995-2009, -38% (-5) 2008-09

A resident whose population has been recovering after recent decreases; numbers are augmented in winter by migrants from northern Europe. The decrease this year may be attributable to poor breeding success in 2008.

Eighteen at Flamborough and 17 at Stoupe Beck near Scarborough on 4th January resulted from cold weather dispersal; those at Scarborough appearing to be of continental origin. Ten in stubble near Long Nab on 10th January and 30 at Flamborough on 14th February similarly appeared during cold spells. Spurn witnessed a small influx of migrants in April, with highs of 19 on 13th and 30 on both 14th and 20th April.

Several locations reported a good breeding season, with seven pairs around Malham representing an increase, and 28 pairs around Worsbrough considered above average. Elsewhere, there were 16 territorial males in the Shirebrook Valley and 20 territories at Winterset.

The first sign of an autumn influx was detected at Spurn, where 52 made landfall on 15th September and numbers increased to 66 there two days later. More significantly 90 arrived at Spurn on 10th October, but the main arrival focused further north, with 500 logged at Filey and 340 at Flamborough. Spurn hosted an

additional 60 on 14th October, when Flamborough produced 350 during the course of the day. Conducive conditions prompted 200 to make landfall at Flamborough on 22nd October and 149 were recorded there on 27th; interestingly, few appeared in the massive fall of thrushes at Filey on the latter date.

Harsh winter weather was undoubtedly responsible for causing the arrival of 36 at Flamborough on 19th December and the appearance of 12 in a single bush along Marine Drive, Scarborough and 54 heading south at Spurn the next day.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* **A**

Red list: common passage migrant and winter visitor

Breeds from Iceland to eastern Siberia, but birds wintering in the county are mostly of Fennoscandian origin.

Flock sizes were generally low during the first quarter, apart from 250 on Stainburn Moor on 4th January and 450 near Healey, Huddersfield on 6th January. Similarly coastal spring passage was slow, with a maximum of 40 at Spurn on 31st March. Late singles visited Cloughton on 13th May, Filey CP on 16th May and Spurn on 24th May.

Five arrived at Spurn on 15th September, but the main influxes took place in October, starting on 10th when 2200 arrived at Filey, 1780 at Flamborough, but just 300 appeared at Spurn (although 750 made landfall there the following day). In a complete reversal, on 14th October the main arrival occurred in the south and 4900 were logged at Spurn, 1200 at Flamborough and 300 at Filey. However, the most significant arrival took place on 27th October, with 1300 over Scarborough Castle, 2000 at Filey, 6519 flew west at Flamborough and 8300 were logged at Spurn. A further 1430 appeared at Spurn on 30th, with another influx the following day involving 500 over Scarborough, 2360 at Flamborough and 3120 at Spurn.

The first appreciable inland movement related to 661 heading south during a 'vis mig' at Oxenhope on 9th October, followed by 552 south over Oxenhope and 448 south over Stainburn Moor the next day and coincided with substantial numbers arriving on the coast. On 11th October 300 flew west at Staveley NR, 652 tracked north over Oxenhope, 305 went south-west over Redmires Res and 320 headed south-west over Rother Valley CP.

The largest inland passage was witnessed at geographically separate sites on 13th October: 2850 flew west over Southfield Res, 3875 tracked over Northowram, 5942 moved over Hunter Hill, 3500 flew over Caldene Fields, 3770 headed north over Oxenhope, 2666 flew south over Stainburn Moor, 1450 flew south-west over Potteric Carr, 1200 went south-west at Denby Dale in 30 minutes and 1298 tracked south-west over Canklow. The next day 1736 moved south over Stainburn Moor, 402 flew west over Wharnccliffe Chase and 1500 were grounded at Grassington, while the 16th produced 1296 north over Oxenhope and 793 west over Wharnccliffe Chase. Activity increased again on 17th October, especially around Sheffield, with 350 over Moscar Cross, 629 west over Redmires Res, 500 west over Ringinglow, 759 south-west over Canklow and 278 south-west over Ulley CP; elsewhere, 860 tracked west over Winterset, 2520 moved north over Stainburn Moor and 3056 headed north over Oxenhope. While unseen along the coast, the arrival continued on 18th October, with 789 north over Oxenhope, 317 south over Stainburn Moor, 374 west over Redmires Res and 1000 west over Gleadless Valley.

After a lull, the last pulse started with 903 south over Stainburn Moor on 26th October, followed by a further 1200 over Winterset the next day, when large numbers also appeared along the coast. On 28th October 2756 headed south over Stainburn Moor, 1285 moved south-west over Redmires Res and 454 flew south-west over Pule Hill, Marsden. An isolated record related to 486 south over Oxenhope on 11th November.



MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* **A**
Amber list: fairly common resident and scarce passage migrant
BBS 86/211: -37% (-25) 1995-2009, -6% (-17) 2008-09
It has declined rapidly nationally and locally from 1994-1998 and again since 2000. After an apparent reversal in 2007, the downward trend has continued in 2008 and 2009.

Assessments of population levels were contradictory, with three pairs at Redmires Res representing a decline, whereas breeding numbers appear to be either stable or slightly increasing within Wharfedale. Elsewhere, 11 pairs bred around Tophill Low, with 11 territories at Winterset and 16 territories in the Worsbrough Valley. Post-breeding flocks included: 50 at Scaling Dam on 18th July; 27 at Southfield Res on 28th July; 63 at Peat Pits, Sheffield on 8th August; 40 at Stainborough Park on 13th August; 30 at Luddenden Dean on 21st August; 49 at Wharncliffe Chase on 11th September; 39 at Yeadon Tarn on 9th October and 50 at Pellon Lane, Halifax on 22nd December. Visible migration recorded 60 south over Stainburn during three hours on 1st August; ten west at Winterset on 27th September; 30 south over Oxenhope on 24th September and 29 south over Oxenhope on 27th September. An increase in coastal records was evident during October; Spurn logged eight on 5th, five flew over Filey CP on 7th, 18 visited the same location on 14th, when unusually, a single appeared on Castle Hill, Scarborough.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* **A** 3,2,2,0,21
Rare visitor and breeder
The breeding stronghold is in southern England, from where post-breeding dispersal or exploration seems to be occurring, with northerly range expansion probably dependent on a succession of mild winters.

The year began with a ringed individual at Wheldrake Ings on 6th January and two remained at Blacktoft Sands from the previous year, with both noted on 13th January. The only summer records consisted of one that showed well at North Cave Wetlands on 16th June and another singing at Storwood on 3rd July; however, the autumn was an altogether different story. An elusive male at the east end of the Canal at Spurn on 9th/10th October represented the second site record and heralded a long overdue influx. The next, at Winterset Res, was a female trapped and ringed on 10th October and then seen sporadically from 30th October-19th December. Two were at Tophill Low on 21st October, with singles on odd dates from 26th October-10th December and two again on 21st November. In addition, Potteric Carr hosted a singing male from 22nd October through to the year-end, with two present on 12th November and three on 18th. Two new individuals arrived on 31st October: one at Pugney's CP, which remained to the end of the year, and the other at Pit House West, Rother Valley CP, which represented a first for Sheffield. Remarkably the City's second record came only a few days later, with another at Pit House West from 5th November and again stayed to the end of the year. Four more were discovered in the environs of Sheffield on 7th November: a male at Catcliffe Marsh, one at Blackburn Meadows NR and two males at Bolehill Flash that remained into 2010.

On 12th November, a single was discovered much further north at Coatham Marsh and it also stayed into the New Year. The influx continued the following day, with a single at Wheldrake Ings and on 15th November one was located at Edderthorpe Flash and noted again on 25th and 27th. Nosterfield GP hosted an elusive bird that was only recorded on 22nd November, 4th and 29th December, proving just how difficult they can be to find. Finally, a single was at North Duffield Carrs on 11th December and another was present at Blacktoft Sands on 8th December. Therefore the year contained an unprecedented and excellent late autumn influx involving 18 individuals, but unfortunately they chose to push north ahead of a bitterly cold winter. The UK population increased from 1000 to over 2500 pairs during the five years to 2008, so an increase in Yorkshire records was on the cards; only time will tell whether these pioneers were hardy enough to withstand the tough winter weather.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
This secretive West Palearctic species winters in West Africa. There has been a substantial national population decline since the 1970s, but local populations fluctuate annually.

A relatively early series of records commenced with one at East Cottingwith on 6th April, followed on 10th April by singing males at Spurn and Malham Tarn. Thereafter fresh arrivals appeared on the coast and inland on a daily basis, with obvious arrival peaks on 18th April and 23rd-26th April. Old Moor held nine singing males from 24th-26th April and, nearby Worsbrough, eight on 26th April. Typically, several inland sites held birds only for a couple of days before territorial males settled into their favoured breeding haunts; however, many sites with 'reelers' that sang only briefly could have supported successful breeding pairs, as the species is notoriously difficult to detect once males have paired off.

Breeding success appeared mixed, with some sites reporting a good breeding year whilst others showed continuing downward trends. Upper Wharfedale logged only a single migrant, compared to up to four sites supporting territories in recent years. Winterset held just two singing males and Fairburn Ings three pairs (six in 2008), whilst only six males established territories at Old Moor (nine in 2008). Conversely, the annual Nightjar Census at Thorne Moors revealed 20 reeling males, an increase on last year, and the Rother Valley recorded a bumper year. In Bradford, a pair bred at Snaygill, the first substantiated breeding record in the club area for 12 years. On the coast, up to three pairs bred at Spurn. Inland migration was evident by no fewer than 18 trapped and ringed at a site near Harrogate during August. In September singles were as follows: at Flamborough on 4th, at the Listening Dish north of Spurn on 12th, Sammy's Point on 18th, Lady Canning's Plantation on 18th/19th, Spurn and Flamborough on 19th and the year's last at Spurn and Winterset on 20th.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* **A**
Fairly common breeding summer visitor and uncommon passage migrant. BBS 20/211
Breeding from Ireland to central Siberia, this trans-Saharan migrant breeds in the county on low ground around lakes, along waterways and also in oilseed rape fields. Nationally it is slightly decreasing.

A single at Staveley NR on 8th April was quickly followed by a more widespread arrival from 10th-12th April, including the first on the coast at Spurn on 11th. Another influx was evident on 24th-26th April and this brought much larger numbers to many of the key wetlands and was further supplemented by a fresh wave of birds on 2nd May and again over 9th-11th May. Migrants were still on the move during the last few days of May and into June. As last year, breeding records continued to give serious cause for concern, but some sites witnessed a small recovery. Fairburn Ings held 44 territorial males (up even on the 2007 count of 41) and Rodley NR reported an increase in singing males. However, there were significant falls in breeding numbers at Winterset (down from 17 to 13 territorial males) and at Old Moor (from 26 to 20). In the Halifax recording area there were only three records all year and Upper Wharfedale reported a poor year, with some formerly reliable sites not even guaranteeing regular sightings. At Pugney's CP a maximum of five singing males represented a further reduction in numbers there. Sites that held in excess of 20 singing males included: Staveley NR (30), Tophill Low (22), Driffeld Canal (29), Went Ings (24), Skipton SW (30) and Thorne Moors (a maximum of 30). Departure from breeding sites started in early August and migrants were evident on the coast from the middle of the month. Although several inland sites indicated an above average showing of migrants in September, no more than three were recorded on any one day along the coast. Late migrants included singles at Pulfin and High Eske NR on 17th, Skipton SW on 19th, North Cave Wetlands on 20th and Winterset on 27th. The year's final record was noted at Spurn on 3rd October.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* **A** 2,3,0,38,15
Red list and UK BAP species: rare passage migrant: occasional breeder
This trans-Saharan migrant is widespread through the Western Palearctic, but its tiny breeding population in southern England is declining. Spring coastal migrants occasionally breed.

Although not at 2008 levels, it proved to be another good year with two breeding attempts, including for the second successive year at Spurn. Two arrived simultaneously near Spurn on 23rd May, at the 'Listening Dish' north of Spurn (MMc) and at Beacon Lane (JMT). The latter quickly established a territory and was seen carrying nesting material on 28th May; fortunately it proved attractive to a female on 5th June, which was found to be a ringed individual from 2008. The pair then went on to successfully fledge three young, the last sighting of which was at Kew Villa on 9th August when a single was trapped and ringed.

At Flamborough a singing male showed well along the South Cliffs on 31st May (CCT *et al.*) and next day a male sang from brambles just north of Cloughton Wyke (CGB). Another songster was located at the Point, Spurn on 3rd June (PCo) with another male further up the coast at Tunstall on the same date (RAB). Cowath Beck, Scalby was then the next focus of nesting shenanigans, when a male set up territory on 6th June; his independence was broken on 8th when a second male was discovered and both were still present on the 11th when joined by a female. Only a pair was seen thereafter, but an adult was carrying food to a potential nest site on 28th June. Sadly no young were noted subsequently and there were no sightings after a male sang all day on 16th July (MF *et al.*). On 7th June the Beacon Lane male attracted a plucky competitor, but it failed to last the course and only stayed the day (RJS). Near Scarborough a singing male was discovered in Hundale Plantation, Long Nab on 8th June (CGB: NWA: SH) and the year's last migrant sang in Filey CP during the early morning on 10th June (TDC: JH *et al.*).

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* **A**
Uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 14/211
The nominate subspecies breeds in the western Palearctic and winters south of the Sahara. Although restricted by habitat requirements, nationally the population has been spreading northwards and westwards, and this pattern is reflected in the county. There was a national increase in 2009.
Winterset recorded its earliest ever on 10th April, with nearby Pugney’s CP and Potteric Carr hosting singles the following day, followed by males at Lowther Lake and Old Moor on 12th. A further trickle occurred over the next two days, another small arrival occurred on 20th April, followed by a more meaningful influx on 25th April. Migrants continued to pass through coastal and inland sites throughout May with peaks on 10th, 15th and 30th May. Four at Flamborough during fall conditions on 15th May was the site’s best in what proved to be a poor year for the Headland.
Most of the major colonies appeared to be holding their own or increasing compared to 2008. Winterset hosted 58 territorial males, slightly up on last year, Pugney’s CP held 50 males (up from 40) and the Fairburn population was stable with 63 territories. Old Moor though reported only 40 males compared to 50 the previous year. Totals of singing males at other sites included: 46 at Pocklington Canal, 45 at Tophill Low, 25 at Leventhorpe Ash Ponds, 25 at Swillington Ings and 17 at Allerthorpe GP, where ten nests were subsequently discovered.
Reasonable numbers of migrants moved through inland sites during August and September, particularly from 19th–21st September including four trapped at Winterset on the former date. Coastal passage was poor with only two autumn records at Flamborough and no more than two on any day at Spurn. October records included singles at Pugney’s CP on 4th, Spurn on 8th, Hatfield Moors on 14th and a particularly late inland record at Firsby Res from 24th–26th October.

BOOTED WARBLER *Hippolais caligata* **A** 0,0,0,0,1
Rare migrant; 16 previous records
Breeds as close as Estonia and migrates in a south–easterly direction to winter on the Indian sub–continent.
A single found in buckthorn near the Warren at Spurn during the middle of the morning on 12th September initially showed well. However it subsequently flew south to an area of scrub where it proved more difficult to locate and remained there until 14th (GA: LN: AR *et al.*). A Spurn specialty, this represented the eighth record for the observatory recording area (with another in the ‘greater Spurn area’), but was the first since a single in August 2000.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* **A** 10,4,2,46,14
Scarce coastal passage migrant, more common in autumn
This species breeds from Norway east through central and northern Europe to western Siberia, and winters in sub–Saharan Africa. First–winter birds start to appear in early August and passage is usually over by mid–September. Nationally one in seven records occurs in spring.
An excellent spring started with four on 15th May; a singing male in Canal Hedge at Spurn (MMc *et al.*), another at nearby Beacon Lane, which lingered next day (MMc *et al.*), a single at post 62, Spurn (JWo *et al.*) and a singing male at Old Fall, Flamborough which also stayed until the following day (CCT *et al.*). Two more were discovered the next day with a single at Sammy’s Point (TMc *et al.*) and a singing male at Easington Cemetery that stayed to 17th (AJS). Flamborough’s second record related to a singing male at Highcliffe Manor, South Landing on 17th May which then relocated to Southsea Road (CCT *et al.*).
After a brief lull Easington hosted another singing male at Green Lane on 21st May (RDHa). At the end of May an elusive singing male frequented Castle Hill, Scarborough on 31st (NWA: CGB: SW) and another singing male was trapped at Kew Villa the same day (ICW *et al.*).

June opened with a single trapped at Buckton on 1st (MT) to be followed by Spurn’s latest ever spring migrant trapped in the Church Field on 27th June (PCo *et al.*).
In contrast the autumn proved exceptionally disappointing with just two records; the first appeared on Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 24th August (GF *et al.*) followed by the year’s last trapped at the Wire Dump and released at the Point, Spurn on 19th September (GED *et al.*).

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta* **A** 0,0,1,0,1
Vagrant; nine previous records
Breeds in northwest Africa, Iberia, France, Switzerland and Italy and winters in Africa.
A singing male in the Little Hedge at Spurn on 23rd May initially masqueraded as an Icterine Warbler before its true identity was revealed when it began to show better and launched into full song (JC: AAH *et al.*). Only the third for Spurn and a rarer *hippolais* within Yorkshire than Booted Warbler.



Icterine Warbler •
Michael Henry

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* **A**
Common breeding summer visitor/passage migrant; scarce wintering species
BBS 82/211: +50% (+51) 1995–2009, –22% (+10) 2008–09
Breeds throughout most of Europe. The significant long–term increase due to climate change, as recent mild winters have encouraged wintering in Britain and northern Europe and early return migration, seems to have stalled since 2007, at least locally.
Just over 45 wintered during January and February, at least a dozen of which were in Sheffield and virtually all visited garden feeders. Conversely the sole Leeds record was at Gledhow on 8th/9th February; at least one site in Sheffield logged three. Around half a dozen new arrivals in March included a number of singing males and may have related to newly arrived migrants.

Unequivocally records from seven sites on 31st March related to true migrants, including the first at both Spurn and Flamborough and at several inland sites including Elland GP. Numbers quickly increased with ten at Tophill Low by 9th April and 22 at Old Moor by 26th. Along the coast there were 11 at both Spurn on 16th April and at Flamborough on 26th April, with 12 at the latter site on 2nd May.
There were encouraging signs that the population was either stable or increased at several sites, including at Winterset where there were 52 singing males, comparable to last year, and 31 pairs at Fairburn represented twice the 2008 tally and was the highest for several years. Worsbrough hosted 50 pairs, up on an estimated 45 in 2006. Other encouraging numbers included 44 pairs at Tophill Low, 20 at Old Moor and Thorne Moors and 18 singing males in Haigh/High Wood, Kexborough. Upper Wharfedale also reported an increase in numbers, including nine singing in Grass Wood.

Autumn passage was subdued, with Spurn’s first migrant logged on 29th August; the best count of ten there on 22nd October was below par, as was an overall total of 139 bird/days. Peaks of 12 at Old Moor on 6th September and also at Winterset on 19th September were the highest inland counts. Up to 35 were reported from the latter half of November through to the year–end, a similar total to 2008.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* **A**
Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 18/211
A summer visitor from Africa which breeds throughout most of Europe in suitable habitat, it has declined nationally by 19% since 1995.

The first two appeared at Yeadon Tarn on 11th April, quickly followed by one at Rodley NR the next day that equaled the earliest ever site record. Worsbrough also hosted its earliest ever on 13th April followed by a single at Went Ings the following day and Filey’s earliest ever on 15th. Relatively early singles then appeared at Askwith in Upper Wharfedale on 15th April and at Ripon Parks, Harrogate the next day. Arrivals appeared in force from 24th April, although Spurn’s first only made landfall on 3rd May. On 15th May there was an obvious fall on the coast linked to an easterly airflow with five at Flamborough, six at Long Nab and nine at Spurn. A late migrant moved through Spurn on 9th June.

Reports during the breeding season suggested a significant improvement over the previous year, with 27 singing males at Winterset as compared to 18 birds in 2008. In the Worsbrough area 18 singing males were recorded, at Tophill Low there were an estimated 15 pairs and 11 singing males were competing for territory at Wharnccliffe Wood. Both Upper Wharfedale and the Halifax area also reported a good year.

Autumn proved disappointing after the first at Spurn on 30th July; the highest counts there were five on 16th September and six on 19th. Flamborough logged just 11 bird/days, with a mere three on 3rd September the best count and Filey recorded just five singles between 13th August and 1st October. Inland the vast majority had cleared out by early August, so a single at Farnham GP on 24th September was exceptional. The year's last records related to singles at Spurn and Scarborough on 15th October.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria* **A** 26,12,10,9,17
Scarce coastal passage migrant, very rare in spring
Breeds through central and eastern Europe to western Siberia, wintering in East Africa. It leaves the breeding grounds early, with the first Yorkshire autumn records, of juveniles, commencing in late July. Nationally only one in about 280 occurs in spring, and Yorkshire has had only one, in 1998.

Two fairly early arrivals were found on 9th August, one briefly in the Little Hedge at Spurn (TMC) and another along Beacon Lane (JCa: CCR: JWo *et al.*). Over a month later two arrived on 10th September: at Spurn's Point Dunes (PCo *et al.*) and in 'Bluethroat Dyke' at Flamborough (PC *et al.*). A new bird showed intermittently at Chalk Bank, Spurn on 11th (AR *et al.*) and a single showed well in the Bay Brambles at Flamborough on 12th/13th, with presumably the same again on 19th/20th (IM: JAS *et al.*). A showy individual was at the Warren, Spurn on 14th (PCo *et al.*) and two more were found at Spurn on 18th, one of which remained until 20th (PCo: MMc *et al.*) Filey's only record was trapped and ringed in the Top Scrub on 19th (IN *et al.*) One appeared briefly near Scalby Lodge on 20th September (MF) and then the autumn's most elusive individual remained in residence at the Warren, but only showed occasionally from 21st September–22nd October (PCo *et al.*). The last record for September appeared at the Point, Spurn on 26th (IS).

After a single at Old Fall Steps, Flamborough from 1st–4th October (PAL *et al.*), two arrived on 10th starting with a single at Northcliff, Flamborough (PAL) and an elusive individual much further north at South Gare (NAP). Finally, singles were discovered at the Point, Spurn on 13th (PCo: AR) and nearby at post 19 the following day (SJ).



Barred Warbler ◦
Ray Scally

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* **A**
Fairly common to uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 14/211
The nominate form is a summer visitor to Western Europe, migrating south–east to its wintering grounds in north–east and central Africa. Nationally it has been in slow long–term decline.

The single continued to winter at Hedon Road Cemetery, Hull until 19th April. In spring four at Staveley NR on 6th April were exceptionally early and preceded the next at Flamborough by five days. On 13th April migrants appeared at Potteric Carr, Flamborough and Spurn; the latter represented the earliest site record there by two days. Carlton Marsh then recorded its earliest on 14th April, the same day as another appeared at Harthill Res. A widespread influx occurred over 18th/19th April followed by ten at Flamborough on 23rd April. Another pulse of arrivals took place on 26th April, when Filey hosted eight and Flamborough ten.

Most pairs were well established by late April, although a few sites had to wait until the first few days of May to record their first. Winterset held 12 singing males, on a par with previous years, and eight pairs were found at both Tophill Low and Spurn, the latter subsequently recording good numbers of juveniles. Unfortunately a decline was evident in the Bradford recording area and the species appears to be in serious decline in the neighbouring Upper Wharfedale area.

Dispersal started in late July, with eight at Tophill Low on 28th, while coastal passage was detected from 22nd August. During 29th–31st August and 6th September both inland and coastal venues played host to obvious passage, although numbers were relatively low with a best of just four at Flamborough on 19th. The last inland record appeared at Winterset on 26th September and thereafter a scattering of migrants graced the coast in October, especially on 10th when four were at Filey and three at Flamborough. After a single at South Gare on 28th October, a single was trapped at the Warren, Spurn on 5th November; it relocated to the Crown and Anchor on 7th where it remained until 22nd November.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* **A**
Amber list: fairly common to common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 89/211: –6% (+18) 1995–2009, –10% (+7) 2008–09
The western European nominate form winters in the vulnerable semi–arid northern Sahel zone. The population appears has recovered nationally to 2004 levels, but in Yorkshire the trend is not quite so positive.

The first appeared at Woodlesford Goit, Leeds on 10th and comprised the second earliest for the City and the following day new arrivals were noted at Winterset (the joint earliest site record), Woodhouse Tip and Fairburn Ings. Arrivals continued on a daily basis throughout the rest of the month and peaked on 25th/26th. On the latter date 17 were logged at Flamborough, the same day as the peak of Lesser Whitethroat arrivals. Thereafter passage was difficult to detect, although there was an obvious influx around Filey on 10th May and numbers at a few inland sites peaked the next day.

The general consensus seemed to be of a slightly improved breeding season, with 49 territorial males at Winterset and 43 pairs at Spurn, with many second broods. There was an increase around Worsbrough to around 30 singing males and a successful season reported at Scarborough and in the Upper Wharfedale recording area.

Inland a single at a site in Upper Wharfedale on 8th August was an indication that the exodus had started, whereas on the coast numbers peaked during early September, with ten at Flamborough on 2nd and 30 at Spurn on 5th. Surprisingly during September the species was more evident than usual inland, highlighted by 15 still at Old Moor on 12th; the last inland record sought sanctuary in bushes adjacent to Ingbirchworth Res on 21st. Six on 26th September were the last at Spurn, whilst the latest were three at Flamborough and a single at Cloughton Wyke on 4th October.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* **A** 1,1,0,3,1
Rare migrant, almost annual in recent years; 39 previous records
Breeds through the Mediterranean from north–west Africa to western Turkey and Israel, and winters in North Africa.

A singing first–year male graced the Point, Spurn on 18th April (JMT *et al.*); after seemingly disappearing mid morning it was relocated next day behind the VTS Tower and showed well at times until 20th. Showing features associated with the eastern *albistrata* race, a decision as to its potential origin is awaited from BBRC.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides* **A** 15,2,1,1,1
Rare migrant to the coast, mostly in autumn; 67 previous records
The European and west Siberian race *P. t. viridanus* has expanded westwards and breeds sporadically in Scandinavia and Germany, and from the Baltic countries east to west Siberia. It winters in the Indian subcontinent.

Another relatively quiet year, the sole record referred to an elusive individual initially located at Stile Scrub, Scalby Lodge on 17th September. After being discovered at 9:30am it proved tricky to see until the evening and then disappeared altogether until re-emerging in Trough Gulley on 19th, where it proved showy enough to be well photographed (NWA: MF *et al.*).

PALLAS’S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus* **A** 12,2,8,20,2
Scarce autumn migrant; very rare inland; 403 previous records
Breeds from south central Siberia east to the Sea of Okhotsk, and winters in south-east Asia. It mostly occurs in October, with a few records into November.

It proved to be a very poor year, with a lack of conducive easterlies during October/early November a critical factor. The first frequented the Kew Villa/Churchyard area of Kilnsea on 13th October. The next appeared at the peak time, with a single remaining in ‘Booted Gully’ at Flamborough all day on 22nd October (KB *et al.*).

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* **A** 245,58,148,135,76
Scarce autumn passage migrant; rare inland and in spring
This tiny and delicate migrant breeds throughout Russia east of the Urals and winters from Nepal east to south-east Asia. It mostly occurs from mid-September to early November, and since the mid-1980’s numbers have significantly increased.

A single in a mist net at the Warren, Spurn on 15th September was the precursor to two in Flamborough’s ‘Golf Course Willows’ on 18th. The next day another duo was found on the Headland, at Thornwick and Old Fall, with the latter still present on 20th. Well inland a single accompanied a Long-tailed Tit flock at Staveley NR on 19th September (PTT) and the following day another fed in bushes adjacent to Buckton Pond. September ended with a single at the Crown and Anchor, Kilnsea on 28th, and on 29th there were singles at Spurn (which remained to 1st October) and another on the Outer Head at Flamborough. Finally, two more made landfall at Flamborough on 30th September.

On 1st October an influx focused on Flamborough, with five arriving during the course of the day. Reighton Gap hosted a single on 3rd October and an additional four appeared on Flamborough the following day. Several days passed with no further arrivals until a single at Flamborough and two at Spurn on 8th October, with one of the latter staying until 15th. However, a switch to easterlies on 10th heralded a widespread influx with seven in the Spurn/Easington area, seven at Flamborough, two at Filey and singles at South Gare and Grimston. A second individual was trapped in Filey CP the following day when Castle Hill, Scarborough also hosted a single; further south a new arrival appeared at the Point, Spurn. Two more made landfall at Flamborough and a single arrived at Spurn on 12th with a further three appearing at Spurn the next day. The 14th witnessed a single trapped at Hundale Plantation near Long Nab, two frequented Easington and another appeared at the Point on Spurn. Castle Hill hosted its second for the year on 15th, with additional ‘new’ individuals discovered in Easington and trapped at Buckton.

The second half of October started slowly with the lull broken with a single trapped at Errington Wood, New Marske on 18th. Thereafter immigration continued at a steady pace with a single at Easington Gas Terminal on 19th and two days later another appeared at South Gare. On 22nd October two visited gardens on Flamborough’s Outer Head (one remaining to 24th), two were in Filey CP and another sheltered in Hundale Plantation, Long Nab. Easington Gas Terminal then hosted a single from 23rd–26th October with another at Newlands Dale, Cloughton on 24th. September ended with a flurry of singles including at: South Landing on 26th; in the Top Scrub at Filey CP and Flamborough village on 27th; in Arndale in Filey CP on 28th; Stone Creek on 30th; and finally a singing male in the Top Scrub in Filey CP on 31st.

The only November record related to one trapped at the Point, Spurn on 10th.

HUME’S WARBLER *Phylloscopus humei* **A** 1,0,0,0,1
Rare migrant; 17 previous records
This species breeds in the Altai Mountains to western Mongolia and winters in southern Afghanistan, the northwest Himalayas and mountains in northwest China.

Brief views of a wing-barred pylosc along Beacon Lane, Kilnsea mid afternoon on 12th May initially suggested Greenish Warbler; however, better views the following day allowed the identification to be clinched, aided when the warbler started calling (JCa: AAH: CCR *et al.*). Later in the day it was trapped and ringed. Although the fourth for the Spurn area, this represented only the second British occurrence in May.

RADDE’S WARBLER *Phylloscopus schwarzi* **A** 2,2,0,4,4
Rare coastal migrant on autumn; 44 previous records
This south Siberian species winters in south-east Asia.

The classic fall conditions on 10th October that prompted the arrival of 18 Yellow-browed Warblers also produced three typically elusive Radde’s. The first located at Sammy’s Point soon used the dyke network to escape (AJB: MK *et al.*). A particularly elusive individual then skulked in ‘Booted Gully’ on the south side of Flamborough; although it stayed until the following day most visitors left with fleeting views at best (AHo *et al.*) The last of the trio that arrived on 10th appeared in weeds on the cliff top at Newbiggin, Filey and again proved difficult to pin down (JH *et al.*). Finally, the last was trapped and ringed at Kew Villa, Kilnsea on 17th October; it was later released at the Crown and Anchor but promptly disappeared (MMc *et al.*).

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus* **A** 2,1,2,2,1
Rare coastal migrant in autumn; 37 previous records
This species breeds in through Siberia to north-east China wintering from Nepal to south China. It is usually a late autumn visitor.

A very vocal, but otherwise typically elusive individual, was discovered in Holmes Gut at Flamborough on 23rd October and it remained until the next day (JAB: KC *et al.*); it proved extremely popular due to its appearance coinciding with that of the Red-flanked Bluetail at nearby Bempton.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon and local breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.
BBS 3/211

The breeding range of this trans-Saharan migrant is restricted to woodlands on the upland margins extending up to the Arctic Circle, with Britain’s rapidly declining population on the western edge of its breeding range.

The first spring migrant away from the breeding sites appeared at Sandsend, near Whitby on 25th April followed by a singing male at Grimston on 8th May. Mid May’s fall conditions delivered several along the coastal strip including the first trapped at Kew Villa, Spurn on 13th May and a male that lingered at the Warren, Spurn from 14th–16th May. Several made landfall on 15th including: two more at Spurn (one to 16th), another at nearby Sammy’s Point (to 16th), a singing male at Old Fall, Flamborough (which lingered until 18th) and finally, one at Castle Hill, Scarborough (with possibly the same again on 18th). South Gare hosted a single on 16th and spring’s last coastal migrant graced Willow Cottage, Easington on 17th May.

Overall reports from the breeding season suggested a slight improvement on 2008. The forests fringing the southern edge of the North Yorkshire Moors attracted a singing male at Hutton Buscel in Wykeham Forest on 24th May and another singing male frequented Sand Dale, Dalby Forest on 14th June. Within the adjacent Howardian Hills, Gilling Park House hosted a single from 26th April–17th June, whilst three singing males were in woodland near Yearsley on 23rd May, with two still present on 31st.

However, the stronghold undoubtedly remains the wooded cloughs west of Sheffield. Wyming Brook recorded its first on a relatively early 12th April and hosted seven singing males by 10th May; a concerted effort by the Sorby-Breck Ringing Group resulted in the ringing of eight adults and 11 pulli during the breeding season. Wharncliffe Woods recorded its first on 7th May, with eight singing males present on 25th May and a last reported there on 12th June. Elsewhere near Sheffield, a singing male was at Moorhole, Mosborough on 23rd April and a male ‘trilled and shivered’ at Blacka Moor on 26th April, with one still singing there on 21st June; in addition two further males were present there on 1st May. Singing males were also recorded at the Limb Valley from 12th–17th May, at Agden Rocher from 24th May–5th July, at Redmires on 1st June, with another there on 16th July and one sang briefly at Lady Canning’s Plantation on 2nd June. On the western fringe of the Barnsley area Langsett Res hosted a male on 10th May and a male held territory at nearby Broomhead Res during the breeding season.

Near Huddersfield a male frequented woodland near Marsden on 10th May and two singing males were recorded in the Halifax area: at Pick Wood Scar, Coley on 19th/20th May and at Hinchcliffe Arms, Cragg Vale from 31st May to 2nd June. Further north two were at Brimham Rocks on 9th May and there were two singing males at Strid Woods in Upper Wharfedale; Hanging Wood also supported two singing males, while a male held territory at Grass Wood from 6th May to 22nd June. Strothwaite Hall, Langthwaite also hosted a single on 24th May.

Autumn migrants were scarce with the first at the Warren, Spurn on 30th July followed by another in the Coastguard Cottage Gardens at Flamborough the next day. On 6th August the Point, Spurn hosted a single and another appeared in Hundale Plantation, Long Nab on 7th August. Along the Humber a migrant appeared at Stone Creek on 10th August. Away from the coast a single appeared well inland at Holbeck Wood, Newby Hall on 31st August. Finally the year’s last lingered at the Point, Spurn on 1st /2nd September.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* **A**
Common breeding summer visitor; scarce in winter

BBS 79/211: +101% (+45) 1995–2009, –15% (–9) 2008–09

There has been a long-term increase nationally and particularly in Yorkshire, as this species adapts to milder winters and adopts shorter winter migration patterns. Numbers were down this year however, and recorded in fewer BBS squares.

During the first two months of the year singles visited Coatham Marsh, Cowbar, Driffield Canal, Old Moor, Dowley Gap, Skelton Lake in Leeds, Swillington Ings, Lemonroyd, Farnley Res, Hatfield Moors, Pugney's CP and Tinsley, with two at Fairburn Ings and Horbury SF; a broadly comparable showing in terms of both sites and numbers to 2008.

The first migrants appeared to arrive on 1st March with a new arrival at Lemonroyd in Leeds and five appeared at Old Moor. Subsequently a single appeared at Elland GP on 2nd March and both Filey and Blacktoft Sands logged their first on 4th March. An influx occurred in at least 15 sites on 15th March, with further pulses taking place on 18th and 21st March, including seven on the latter date at Park Wood, Rossmoor. Old Moor hosted 35 on 29th March with ten in the Gleadless Valley on the same date. Another arrival took place on 5th April with ten at both Farnley Lake and Ulley CP. The coast experienced its first appreciable arrival on 10th April when there were 18 at Spurn and 14 at Filey, followed by 36 at Spurn on 13th/14th; inland 21 were in the Shirebrook Valley on 13th. Spurn logged 14 on 15th May and Flamborough recorded the same on 23rd to round off a much better than average spring passage.

Breeding numbers at several sites were slightly down on the previous year although many others reported a stable population. Winterset held 53 pairs (55 in 2008), Fairburn Ings 19 pairs (21 in 2008), Wharnccliffe Wood 15 pairs (20 in 2008), Tophill Low 18 pairs, Worsbrough Valley an estimated 50 pairs and Thorne Moors hosted 30 pairs.

Autumn passage was subdued with Spurn logging 293 bird/days between 15th August and 3rd December, compared to 475 in spring, although relative to some other warblers, numbers held up. A total of 18 were trapped at Winterset on 25th July which indicated an inland movement was underway; additional totals included 15 at Blackburn Meadows on 27th August, 13 at Thrybergh CP on 29th August, 16 at Thrybergh CP on 1st September and 15 at Hatfield Moors on 2nd September. However the main autumn build up started synchronously at both coastal and inland sites from 10th September. Peak September counts included: 12 at Spurn on 11th/12th, 12 at Hay-a-Park on 12th, 17 at Old Moor on 18th, 18 at Flamborough on 19th; 22 at Potter Brompton on 23rd; and 17 at Cloughton Wyke on 24th September. Passage remained unabated during October with Flamborough receiving 18 on 22nd and Spurn logged 11 on 28th. Daily sightings continued along the coast until 10th November, with sporadic records thereafter until the last on 3rd December.

Over the last few weeks of the year overwintering individuals were discovered at: Flamborough, Redcar, Carlton Marsh, Wilthorpe Marsh, Dowley Gap, Farnham GP, Lemonroyd Lock, Fleet Plantation, Leeds, Fairburn Ings, Hatfield Moors (two), Pugney's CP, Rother Valley CP, Thrybergh CP, Shirebrook Valley, Treeton Dyke, Kilnhurst Ings, Bolehill Flash, Went Ings and Thorne Moors.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

–, –, –, 5, 6

Rare passage migrant; occasionally overwinters

The year's first related to a mid winter record from Star Carr, near Scarborough from 1st–6th January; it gave superb views at close range and was well photographed (DS *et al.*).

More typically, October brought a flurry of records starting with a relatively early individual which was trapped and ringed at Filey CP on 11th (PJD *et al.*). The next made landfall at nearby Flamborough when one remained in the Coastguard Cottage gardens from 18th–21st October (RAB *et al.*); another then appeared in Old Fall on 22nd (CCT *et al.*). Conforming to a late October trend, the next appeared at the Point, Spurn on 27th; it was particularly vocal and was still present on 29th/30th (MJP *et al.*). Finally, a single showed well in vegetation fringing Lakeside in Doncaster from 11th–20th December (TR *et al.*).

All records have been accepted by the county's Adjudication Panel.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* **A**

Amber list: common to abundant breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

BBS 114/211: +8% (–30) 1995–2009, –31% (+8) 2008–09

The populations of this species, the commonest trans-Saharan passerine migrant, have been declining in Europe and in southern and eastern England, but it has been increasing in northern England and Scotland.

Two very early individuals appeared at Pontefract on 14th March, followed by another next day at Thorne Moors. A week later Tophill Low and Hay-a-Park hosted singles on 21st with another at Fairburn Ings on 23rd. A major influx took place on 4th/5th, April with the first at both Spurn and Flamborough on the former date.

On 11th April 17 were logged at Flamborough and 21 at Spurn and two days later Spurn recorded 27, the highest count of the spring. Numbers along the coast were lower in May with bests of 11 at Flamborough on 9th and 13 at Spurn on 15th. Inland some impressive counts were received including 123 around the Old Moor area on 14th April and 100 at Ripon Park on 16th April. Other reports included 30 at Hatfield Moors on 11th, 48 at Grimwith, Upper Wharfedale on 19th April, 50 at Colsterdale on 20th April and 36 graced Redmires on 26th April.

The breeding season appeared to be mixed, with significant increases at several sites and continuing declines at others. Among the downward trends Wharnccliffe Woods held 51 males (from 64 in 2008), Haigh/High Wood held a meagre two singing males as compared to a maximum of 50 in the late 1980's and there were 12 pairs at Pugney's CP (20 in 2005). However, numbers at Fairburn Ings jumped to 95 pairs (64 in 2008), Tophill Low recorded a healthy 64 pairs, up to 65 pairs were present in the Worsbrough Valley and the Bradford area reported a general improvement in population levels over the previous year.

Twenty moved through both Winterset on 11th July and Old Moor on 18th, with another 21 through Winterset on 25th July; in early August 25 were counted at Ogden on 4th. A total of 44 were logged at Spurn on 6th August, with similar numbers present there on 11th and 22nd; 25 were present on Flamborough on 28th August, followed by the highest autumn count of 48 at Spurn on 30th August. Inland counts included: 16 at Redmires on 16th August; 25 at Farnham GP on 18th; 20 at Old Moor on 28th; 20 at Roils Head on 30th; and finally 16 at Scammonden on 31st. During early September there were 20 at Methley Bridge on 2nd and 41 on the coast at Spurn on 5th; several inland sites recorded the species later than is usual, with the last at Ogden on 11th. Flamborough hosted a single on 22nd October and the following day one showing characteristics of the *acredula* race was trapped at Filey CP where it remained until 27th.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* **A**

Fairly common resident and passage migrant. BBS 12/211

Breeds from Britain east to Japan: northern birds are migratory responding to cold weather and breeding success. The population has been steadily increasing, largely due to the creation of suitable coniferous habitat, but harsh winter weather probably accounts for the contraction in recording, from 31 BBS squares in 2008 to 12 this year, reflecting the 50% national decrease.

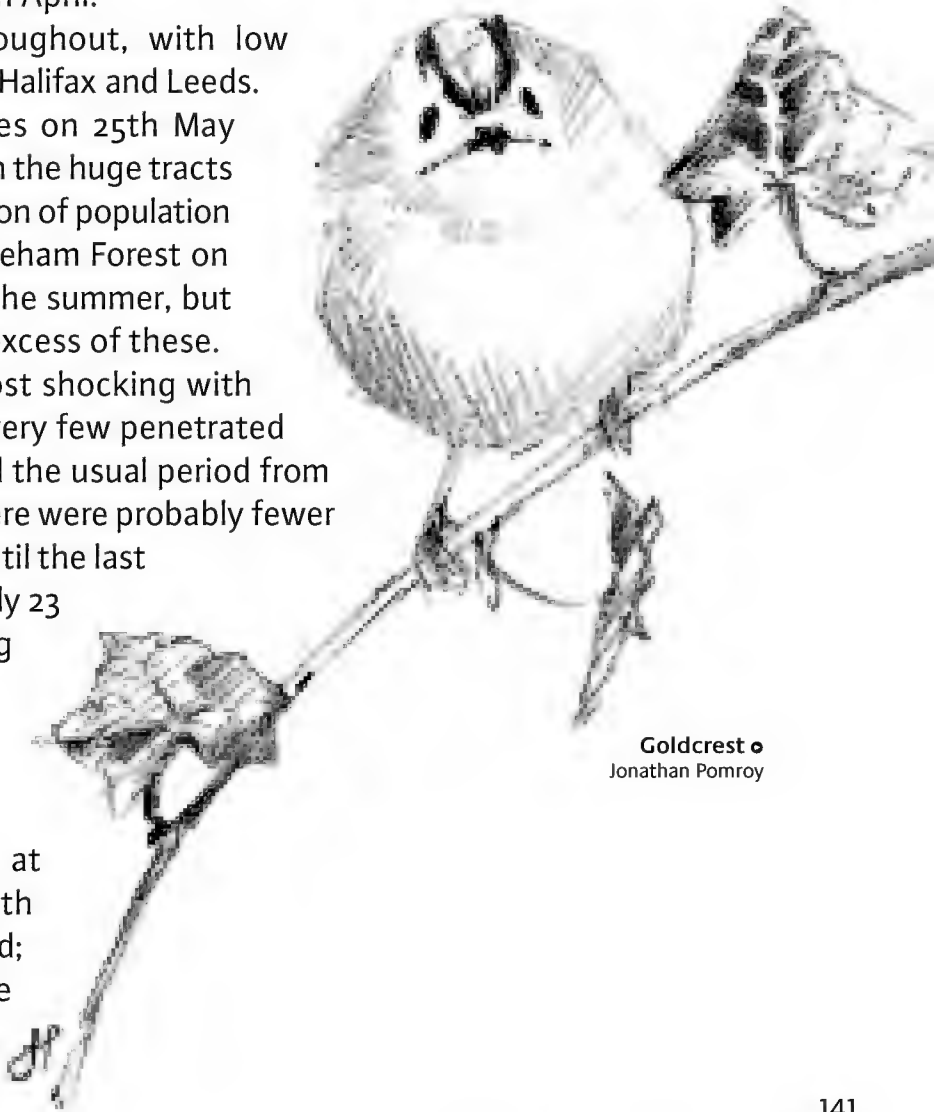
Undeniably widespread during the first two months of the year with totals on a par with 2008; highest counts included 12 at Old Moor on 4th January, eight at Rodley NR on 15th January and six at Horbury SF on 24th January.

Spring passage started on 2nd March with no more than two until 16th March when there were six at Flamborough and 24 at Spurn. On 18th March ten passed through Filey and a bit of a quiet spell ensued before passage picked up again in early April: Spurn logged 23 on 1st, Filey hosted 11 on 2nd and then Spurn attracted 18 on 4th; spring's last appeared at Flamborough on 26th April.

The breeding season appeared to be poor throughout, with low numbers/poor success reported from Barnsley, Bradford, Halifax and Leeds. Wharnccliffe Wood near Sheffield held 16 singing males on 25th May although far higher numbers were undoubtedly present in the huge tracts of coniferous forest found across the region; as an indication of population densities, 15 were present in a single 1km square in Wykeham Forest on 21st June. Tophill Low and Shepley both held six during the summer, but there were no further counts in the breeding season in excess of these.

However it was the autumn season that proved most shocking with hardly any migrants along the coast and consequently very few penetrated inland, a situation reflected nationally. Passage spanned the usual period from early September through to mid November, although there were probably fewer than 20 along the entire coast during the latter month until the last on 11th. Spurn logged just 233 bird/days with a best of only 23 on 22nd October, a maximum usually reserved for spring passage. Flamborough fared little better, with a high of 29 on 22nd October. Consequently totals of 25 at Timble Ings in October and 20 at Ogden Res on 4th November were notable.

There were few reports of wintering flocks with 15 at Ellerburn on 21st November, ten at Fairburn Ings on 11th December and eight at Langsett Wood the largest reported; an unpromising situation potentially exacerbated by the subsequent harsh winter.



Goldcrest •
Jonathan Pomroy

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* **A** 30,32,35,102,67

Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant: bred in 1995 and 2001

This species breeds mostly in southern England, with north European populations migrating south–westwards to winter around the Mediterranean and providing a double passage on the coast.

The first graced Saltmarshe Delph on 10th January, although one killed by a cat at Stocksbridge during January was rather less fortunate. There were two records in February, a singing male in conifers at Tophill Low on 7th and one in a garden at Wombwell on 18th.

Spring passage started with the first at Spurn on 29th March which lingered until 1st April, while inland one remained at Hatfield Moors on 30th–31st. April started off with one at Filey CP on 2nd and three days later one flew in off the sea at Spurn and landed at the observer’s feet; it remained next day. Spurn hosted another on 10th April followed by a single at Kilnsea on 14th/15th. The following day one was discovered in Filey CP on 16th April, Hatfield Moors hosted a male on 19th April before the last sighting of spring unusually appeared at Thornton–le–Dale on 11th May.

Autumn’s first appeared at Spurn on 20th September with a subsequent gap until the next on 9th October when there were two at Flamborough and singles at Out Newton and Spurn, with the latter possessing a Danish ring. An influx the following day prompted the arrival of four at Spurn, ten at Flamborough (three stayed to 12th) and singles at Robin Hood’s Bay, Sandy Beaches Caravan Park in Kilnsea and at Easington. A new individual made landfall at Flamborough on 11th when two also appeared in Filey CP (both remained until 14th) and another graced Spurn on 12th/13th. Singles then made landfall at Long Nab and Castle Hill on 12th October and further south new arrivals appeared at Flamborough on 13th (two), 14th and 18th. On the latter date a single was discovered in a garden at Ecclesall, Sheffield. Another pulse started on 21st when new arrivals graced Spurn and Castle Hill at Scarborough, with the latter still in residence the next day. The 22nd witnessed an appreciable influx including: seven at Flamborough (two of which lingered until 24th), an additional four at Spurn and two also made landfall at Bempton Cliffs. The 23rd produced additional singles at both Filey CP and Buckton but there were then no further arrivals until the end of the month. On 28th October a single appeared in Old Fall, Flamborough and the following day Spurn logged its last. There followed three records in November: at Long Preston on 7th, in Danes Dyke, Flamborough on 9th and one accompanying a tit flock at Woof Howe Grain, Langdale Forest on 10th.

Rounding off an above average year, a single lingered in Old Fall, Flamborough on 5th/6th December and another visited Pit House West, Sheffield on 13th/14th December.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: increasingly uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 8/211

Distributed across the western and central Palearctic, this long–distance trans–Saharan migrant is usually one of the last to arrive, in mid–May. In common with many of these migrants, the population has been declining – nationally by 48% since 1995.

An early single appeared at Netherside Hall near Thresfield on 23rd April. Along the coast, spring passage at Flamborough was confined to the period from 14th–29th May and tallied 17 bird/days including a best of six on 24th. Unsurprisingly Spurn fared better and although well down on the exceptional 2008 spring passage 84 bird/days was above average: the first two made landfall on 10th May, with peak counts of 15 on 15th May, 19 on 24th and eight on 25th June. Singles were then logged at Spurn on five days in June, including a late migrant on 30th.

Local Bird Reports help give an idea of population trends, rather than the actual number of pairs across the county; many will undoubtedly go un–recorded. At least 13 pairs bred in the Hull Valley, including a pair that raised two broods, each of five young, at the Tophill Low visitor centre; a further two pairs bred at the same site. Three pairs bred at Wassand, a pair bred at Sigglesthorne and at least one pair nested at Atwick. Evidence of breeding was also received from the Beverley Clump area, Hornsea Mere, Leconfield and Pulfin & High Eske.

In South Yorkshire there were singing males or pairs in the Sheffield area at: Redmires (two pairs), Wharncliffe Heath (four singing males), Strines Res, Lady Canning’s Plantation, Blacka Moor and Wyming Brook. Nearby in Barnsley, two males held territory at Broomhead Res, two pairs bred in the Little Don Valley and breeding was also proved at Delmont Grange, Langsett Banks, Langsett, Cliff Wood, Sheephouse Wood and at Darton. However there was only a single record at Winterset and indications that it is becoming increasingly scarce around Worsbrough, although a pair bred at Wentworth Castle Gardens.

Five pairs bred at four locations in Huddersfield area, although a family party in Yeadon Cemetery constituted the only evidence of breeding from around Leeds; several previously favoured sites in the north of the latter’s recording area were checked without success. Reports from the southern half of the Upper Wharfedale suggested

that there was a decline, although more widely noted from the north; breeding was proved at John O’Gaunts, Denton, Ling Park Plantation, Barden Bridge, Grass Wood Kilnsey, Kettlewell and Rainscar on Pen–y–Ghent Fell. Two pairs nested at Ling Park, but the eggs and young were repeatedly predated resulting in only two young eventually fledging. Also in Wharfedale a pair successfully fledged young from a garden nest box in Kilnsey.

Records suggested it was a good season in the Harrogate area including at least six pairs in Ripon, three in Littlethorpe and singles at Glasshouses, Howstean Gorge and Laverton. A pair at Mayville again bred in a half coconut shell and breeding was also proved at Fishergreen, Sharow Grange, and along the River Skell; the last was at Fountains Hall on 19th September. The picture was also promising around Malham and at least six pairs attempted to breed on Tarn Estate.

The autumn at Flamborough produced 39 bird/days between 17th August and 23rd September, with a maximum of seven on 4th September. A total of 125 bird/days were logged at Spurn after the first on 16th August, with peaks of 13 on 29th and 17 on 30th August; 17 on 5th and eight on 26th September; the last entered the log on 30th September.

RED–BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* **A** 10,3,2,45,5

Scarce coastal passage migrant, rare in spring

Breeds from Sweden eastwards almost to the Urals, and winters in the Indian subcontinent. Just over one in twenty records are in spring, with most records in Yorkshire from mid–August to mid–November.

The first made landfall at Kilnsea where it ranged between the Churchyard and the Crown & Anchor on 15th September (NG: GCT *et al.*). Two arrived on 18th September: a first–winter male frequented the Coastguard Cottage Gardens at Flamborough (RAB *et al.*) and an attractive male was discovered in the Crown & Anchor /Churchyard area of Kilnsea and remained the following day. Flamborough hosted another on 2nd October in the Golf Course Willows (PAL) and also the year’s last in Sykes Plantation on 22nd October (PAL).

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* **A**

Amber list: increasingly uncommon and local breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 1/211

A summer migrant to the Western Palearctic from western Africa, the breeding range in the county is largely restricted to the west and north, usually associated with Sessile Oak, and is highly dependent on nest–boxes. This species is also in decline, the national population having fallen by 54% 1994–2008.

Early migrants were males at Glen Howe Park, Sheffield on 12th April and New Broomhill Park near Barnsley on 14th April, while a single at Filey on 25th April represented the first coastal record. Flamborough only attracted two in the spring, with a single from 14th–17th May and another appearing on the latter date. Spurn fared better after a female in the Churchyard on 2nd May that lingered until the following day. Further singles were logged on 11th/12th with another on the latter date. An impressive spring maximum occurred on 15th May, when twelve were in the Spurn area including two at Sammy’s Point; only one remained the next day and the last of spring passed through on 2nd June. Elsewhere a male at North Cave Wetlands on 2nd May constituted the first site record.

Breeding records were concentrated in the South Pennines and Yorkshire Dales, although a pair fledged six young at Hawnby in Ryedale. In the Sheffield area pairs/singing males were recorded at Damflask Res, Wyming Brook, Wharncliffe Chase and Agden (two broods ringed); a breeding female trapped at the latter site on 31st May had been ringed as a chick at Ellers Wood, Low Snowden in North Yorkshire on 8th June 2008. Nearby the Barnsley area held two pairs in nest boxes within Broomhead Wood, a pair at Cliff Wood and a pair together with an additional two singing males in the Ewden Valley. It appears to be just clinging on within the Huddersfield and Halifax areas: Clayton West hosted a pair and there was a singing male at Stainland Dean in the former, while near Halifax a male held territory at Hardcastle Craggs from 1st – 13th June and a male was at Ogden on 9th/10th June.

The best site appeared to be Strid Wood on the Bolton Abbey Estate, where 13 were located on 6th May; this mirrors 2008 and better than the ten found in 2007. Nest boxes were again a favoured nesting site along the Strid, with at least three pairs taking advantage. Hanging Wood, previously a favoured location in the Bradford area, was not occupied this year. The population in the Washburn Valley was concentrated between Dob Park and Folly Hall Wood, with seven present on 24th May; there was also a pair in Hanging Wood below the Thruscross Dam. Six nest boxes were occupied in Low Snowden and three in Dob Park producing 47 juveniles in total and equivalent to 5.2 live young/nest, well below the peak of 6.4 in 2007. None of the boxes in Nell Bank and Middleton Woods were occupied. Folly Hall Wood contained eight nests producing 50 juveniles, a ratio of 6.3 live young/nest. There were also several further breeding records from the Bolton Abbey Estate, including a pair which bred on the back road by Barden Fell.

In Upper Nidderdale a record six pairs occupied nest boxes along the road from Lofthouse to Newhouses; a pair also bred successfully in a nest box at Smelthouses, as did two pairs in the West Tanfield/Hackfall Wood area. Guisecliffe and Bryan's Wood at Dacre also hosted singing males during May. Two singing males were attracted to Tarn Fell, Malham where newly erected nest boxes had been provided, but unfortunately neither attracted a female.

Flamborough logged a mere 22 bird/days between 19th August and 20th September, with a best of four on 24th. Low numbers were also logged at Spurn after the first two on 6th August which reflected the lack of easterly winds. In total there were 100 bird/days at Spurn with 14 present on 11th September and the last on 27th September. Filey hosted a single on 15th October and the year's last appeared at Easington Gas Terminal on 22nd October.



Pied Flycatcher ◉
Ray Scally

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus* **A**

Amber list: scarce and local resident breeder; occasional irruptive immigrant. BBS 1/211

One hundred years ago this reedbed specialist was confined to East Anglia but although susceptible to cold weather, the population is thought to be stable. Largely resident, it is prone to eruptive or cold weather movements. The expansion of reedbeds along the banks of the Humber may encourage the population to spread from Blacktoft Sands.

At Blacktoft, 100–120 pairs had a moderate breeding season, producing between 300 and 450 young. First brood production appeared to be relatively successful, due to both reasonable weather and apparently good numbers of chironomids (first young seen on the 10th May). Likewise, there appeared to be a good second brood, mainly due to availability of plenty of wainscot caterpillars, although success may have been limited by heavy rain in early June. Third brood success may have been suppressed due to a wet July and a seemingly poor supply of insects. A search in December, revealed a wintering population of 247 within the reedbed.

Elsewhere, two pairs bred in reeds along the Humber shore at Welton Waters; a minimum of eight were present there on 15th October. A male at Saltmarsh Delph on 4th November represented the first reserve record for 30 years.

At Spurn a male and two females spent a brief time along the Canal on 7th October before heading south and were followed by a single at Wheldrake Ings from 8th–10th October. A reedbed south of the hide at Beacon Ponds attracted a party of ten on 18th October, while a female showed well at North Cave on 30th/31st October; only the second reserve record. Finally the Canal at Spurn hosted a single on 31st October.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* **A**

Common resident except on high ground in west

BBS 53/211: +40% (+10) 1995–2009, –37% (–9) 2008–09

Numbers are increasingly seen visiting bird tables in gardens. Large post-breeding flocks later in the year were evidence of the successful breeding season, and parties of 30+ birds were not uncommon. Nesting activity noted as early as mid-March with young appearing by mid-May.

Flocks in the first half of the year included up to 40 in Fleet Plantation near Leeds and an impressive 80 in the woods at Temple Newsam during January. However, most significant aggregations were witnessed post-breeding, with 40 at High Batts NR on 11th August and 40 at Bolton Ings, Old Moor on 19th September. Many sites experienced their maxima during October with: 40 at Ogden on 6th; 41 at Filey on 11th; 40 at Bradway, Sheffield on 22nd and 52 split over three neighbouring sites at Worsbrough on 24th October. Several flocks in the Knostrop and Skelton Lake area east of Leeds totalled 120 on 27th October and indicated the health of the population despite recent colder winters. Ringing effort at Blackburn Meadows NR, Sheffield resulted in 64 being trapped during the course of the year.

Further evidence of the strength of local populations was revealed by the presence of nine breeding pairs at Tophill Low, 13 territories at Winterset and 16 pairs at Fairburn.

As an indication of a relative sedentary nature, Spurn managed a mere four records starting with five on 23rd February, four on 5th/6th March and nine appeared on 7th March. In the autumn, seven flew south to the Warren on 28th October, where they were all caught and ringed, and all remained in the area the following day.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* **A**

Abundant and widespread resident; uncommon passage migrant

BBS 159/211: +4% (0) 1995–2009, –21% (–5) 2008–09

The national population appears to be stable, but this was another species that was affected by poor breeding success in 2008.

Improved weather conditions over the summer resulted in much better productivity data from several sites. Tophill Low attracted 43 pairs, most breeding in nest boxes; this compares to only 17–18 pairs in 2008 and 39 pairs in 2005. A total of 184 young fledged from 26 boxes at the long-running nestbox scheme in Gledhow Valley Woods, Leeds; 101 fledged from the same number of nest boxes in 2008. Other sites in the Leeds area also reported good breeding success, including those in nest boxes at Yeadon Tarn, Ox Close and Rodley NR. Further evidence of a successful breeding season around Leeds was indicated by the presence of 100 in woods at Temple Newsam and 60 at Yeadon Tarn in June. Immediately east of Leeds, 34 pairs bred at Fairburn Ings compared to 24 territories occupied in 2007. Although the number of pairs in a survey area in Upper Wharfedale had dropped to 27 (from 37 in 2008) productivity was again improved with 6.7 juveniles fledging per nest compared to an equivalent value of 5.7 the previous year.

As an illustration of the true numbers visiting a particular site, the maximum day counts at High Batts NR was 50, although no fewer than 381 were trapped and ringed at the site during the year. Two nest box studies were conducted in the Harrogate area: at Hackfall Woods 110 eggs were laid in 14 boxes and 83 young fledged, while at West Tanfield 94 eggs were laid in 12 boxes and 65 young fledged.

A partially leucistic individual at Skelton Castle on 25th November had been initially ringed there as a juvenile in 2006 when it had exhibited no such plumage abnormalities.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* **A**

Abundant and widespread resident; uncommon passage migrant

BBS 143/211: +1% (+39) 1995–2009, +67% (–7) 2008–09

The strong increase of this sedentary species in the county since 2000 continued this year, bucking the trend for most passerines.

High Batts NR hosted the largest count in the first winter period with 40 on 28th January with 22 noted in Grimescar Valley near Huddersfield and 24 in Middleton Woods, Bradford. Post–breeding aggregations involved slightly higher numbers including 40 at Spurn on 13th July and 25 at Ogden on 28th July; however, High Batts NR again recorded the maximum, with 50 present on 11th August. Thirty–five were then present at Hardcastle Craggs on 17th November.

A census of Tophill Low revealed a population numbering 12 pairs, well down on the 20 pairs present in 2006 and 2007. Conversely there were 25 pairs at Fairburn Ings, up on the 21 pairs holding territory in 2007; 19 nest boxes were occupied at Rodley NR which constituted a record high. A large nest box study is conducted on an annual basis at Gledhow Valley Woods near Leeds; results revealed that 66 young fledged from 13 boxes (with five other nests failing) with one pair raising two broods. The productivity per nest box was an improvement over the last couple of summers with breeding success having suffered in 2007/2008 from cold, wet periods at the critical time.

In an Upper Wharfedale study area the number of occupied nest boxes was well down from 37 to 23 on the previous year. However, again productivity was well up with 6.3 young per nest box compared to 5.2 in 2008, even though seven eggs were laid per nest in both years. Within the Harrogate area 89 young fledged from 18 boxes at Hackfall Woods (60 fledging from 20 in 2007) and 64 fledged from ten boxes at West Tanfield (68 fledging from 15 in 2007).

Although often considered relatively sedentary, the Spurn log illustrates that the species does move, with a peak occurring in early spring. Counts of 14 on 4th February and 15 on 20th represented an increase, while 16 were logged on 11th March. In addition 15 flew south during March, including eight on 15th and a ringing total of 47 during the spring also illustrated passage.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater* **A**

Common resident and passage migrant in small numbers. BBS 44/211

The nationally increasing, sedentary race *britannicus* is thinly distributed throughout. Common wherever there are conifers, but frequently appears in gardens.

The strongholds appear to be coniferous belt on the southern edge of the North Yorkshire Moors and similar habitats along the Pennines, especially in the south near Sheffield. To further illustrate this, a survey of the forests inland of Scarborough showed that the population has increased significantly since 1997; 60 were counted in a 1km square of Wykeham Forest on 21st June helping to indicate the numbers that must be present. Away from the North Yorkshire Moors the eastern half of the county appears to lack suitable tracts of habitat to sustain substantial numbers; however, four pairs bred at Tophill Low, with one using a nest box for first time for seven years. There were only two records from the Spurn area: firstly a single showing characteristics of the continental race at the Point from 18th –20th April and then one near Easington on 24th December.

West of Sheffield the coniferous plantation at Swinden Walls held 11 singing males during the breeding season; a relatively small tract of woodland, this census helped give an indication of the potential population size. A search of less than half of the woodland at Langsett on 22nd June located 32, including several juveniles on 22nd June, and 40 were in the Langsett/Midhope area on 31st December. Wharnccliffe Wood held 25 on 21st December and Wortley Park attracted 27 on 29th December. Ringing effort at Lady Canning’s Plantation trapped 35 during the course of the year and similarly 26 were caught at Normanton Spring.

Further north, Ogden hosted 30 on 28th July, while two days of ringing effort at Harlow Carr Gardens in February and October was rewarded with a total of 20.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon and declining resident, scarce in the east. BBS 7/211

Nationally the British sedentary race *kleinschmidtii* of this boreal Palearctic species has decreased by 73% 1995–2009. Nine birds were recorded in seven BBS squares.

Scarce in the north–east of the county with two at Errington Wood in February and singles at Guisborough, Scaling Dam and Margrove Ponds; there were no records from Lovell Hill for the first time since 1970. Further south in Ryedale a single appeared at Yearsley on 26th April, two visited Ellerburn on 21st November with one at the same site on 5th December. There were reports from several areas around Scarborough, mainly from the low–lying Carrs: the first record related to one singing at Wykeham Ings on 21st March, Ravenscar hosted a single on 24th April and two were at Willerby Carr on 5th May. In June ten (including two or three family parties) were at Manor Farm, Staxton, with another family party along the River Derwent. There were several autumn records from The Carrs with singles also at Seamer Road Mere, Cloughton Wyke and North Moor.

There were few records from East Yorkshire: a single at Welton Waters on 7th February preceded one at Danes Dyke South, Flamborough on 2nd May. Elsewhere, there was a single at North Cave on 1st July, one visited Pulfen & High Eske NR on 4th July and nearby Tophill Low attracted a single on 18th November.

A population remains around the York area, where there were records from four sites during the breeding season, and additionally up to two were present around Southfield/Went Ings throughout the year. Three singing males held territory at Saltmarshe Delph, with pairs breeding in poly–filled nest boxes; a party of ten was present on 17th October.

South Yorkshire appears to be maintaining a relatively healthy population, although some areas reported a reduction in records. It was recorded regularly from Thorne Moors (up to four), Hatfield Moors and Potteric Carr (two pairs bred). There were reports of singing male/pairs at 13 sites in the Sheffield area, including two pairs at Harthill Res (where seven juveniles were trapped), and a maximum of four at Thrybergh CP. A single re–trapped at Norton on 7th April had been first trapped on 26th February 2005. The population around Barnsley was described as widespread but thinly distributed and concentrated in the lowlands: six pairs bred at Winterset, there were slightly fewer reports within the Worsbrough Valley, but up to ten featured regularly at Old Moor.

In West Yorkshire pairs probably bred near Huddersfield at Scout Dike Res, Ingbirchworth Res, Stocksmoor Common NR and a family party was at Gunthwaite Dam; however, it was a poor year at Bretton Park, with no more than two on any day and no proof of breeding. Pugney’s CP hosted three breeding pairs and there were four pairs at Fairburn Ings, with one pair raising four young near the Visitor Centre. Around Swillington Ings sightings were reasonably frequent between Knostrop and Lowther Lake, with family parties noted in Fleet Plantation, Swillington Ings and Swillington Park, although there were few records from the once favoured Lemonroyd area. Conversely there were records on 40 bird/days at Rodley NR when a handful is the norm. North of Leeds there were reports of up to three from a range of sites in a swathe along the Wharfe valley.

Unfortunately the population around Harrogate appears to be declining with records confined to: a single at Allerton Park on 1st January; a pair raising six young at Staveley NR; one at Ripon Loop on 12th April and four ringed at a site near Ripon during the course of the year.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon resident, scarce in south–east and south–west. BBS 7/211

This Palearctic species prefers mature broad–leaved woodland. There has been a smaller national decrease 1995–2009 of 21% compared to the previous species, but it had identical statistics locally in BBS this year.

Both the Willow Tit and this species are likely to be under–recorded, although perhaps more so for this species, whose strongholds tend to be woodland areas well away from well visited riparian reserves. In the north–east the wooded Leven Valley from Crathorne to Saltergill continues to be an obvious stronghold throughout the year. Two were present at Saltburn, Margrove Ponds and Skelton Castle during the winter with singles at Poole Hospital and Guisborough. The wooded areas fringing the southern edge of the North Yorkshire Moors were again favoured, with healthy populations around Thornton–le–Dale, Hackness, Langdale End, Ravenscar and Forge Valley. A single on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 21st/22nd June was unusual. During the summer there were records from seven sites in the York area, with others surely going undetected in the foothills of the Wolds, where a good population appears to be present. Drewton hosted five on 8th August and six were at Brantingham Dale in mid November; there were also regular records from Welton Waters outside of the breeding season. A juvenile was trapped and ringed at Spurn on 1st July; the 13th record for the site and illustrative that the species can wander post–breeding.

The limestone woodlands near Rotherham contain a small population, with the environs of Roche Abbey a particularly favoured site. Records from other areas of South Yorkshire were particularly scarce, with no records from either the Barnsley or Sheffield areas. Bardsey, Carthick Woods, Keswick Fitts and Ox Close Woods near Leeds held low numbers throughout the year and breeding was probable. Elsewhere a pair frequented suitable breeding habitat Micklefield, two visited Farnley Park, Leathley on 5th April and a single was heard in Temple Newsam Woods on the same day. A single at Ogden on 19th September represented the first record from the Halifax area since one at Elland GP on 18th May 1978.

Ten were present at High Batts NR on 10th January and a pair was feeding young there on 19th May. A single re–trapped on site on 15th March had been initially ringed at High Batts as a juvenile on 15 November 2006. Elsewhere in the Harrogate area small numbers were noted in the town itself and at Fountains Abbey, Farnham GP, Birkham Wood, Staveley NR and Nosterfield NR.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea* **A**
Uncommon to fairly common resident, scarce in south-east. BBS 15/211
A very sedentary West Palearctic species that is increasing nationally. Casual observations and BBS suggest it has been expanding its range in the county, but has yet to colonise the south-east.

The population in the north-eastern half of the county is healthy and pairs probably bred at Skelton, Saltburn, Guisborough and Stewart Park in Cleveland. There were also frequent reports from many of the woodlands fringing the North Yorkshire Moors in both the Ryedale and Scarborough districts. However, this remains a scarce species in East Yorkshire, with a single at Hornsea Mere on 30th August particularly noteworthy.

Once restricted to limestone woodlands around Rotherham, over recent years the species has colonised the whole area and can even be located close to the town centre in Clifton Park. Similarly a significant range expansion continues in and around the Barnsley and Sheffield areas with favoured sites near Barnsley including Pits Wood, Walton Hall, Stoneheaps, Blue Bridge, Stubbs Wood and Clay Royd Bridge. Most mature woodlands within the Worsbrough Valley proved attractive, with six at Wentworth Castle Gardens on 7th March, nine near Worsbrough village on 5th June and seven again at Wentworth Castle Gardens on 15th November.

Bretton Park hosted seven territories on 14th February with 15 present on 4th March. Further north, 98 records from 32 sites represented the largest ever number around Halifax; east of Leeds, Temple Newsam Woods held up to 12 during the latter half of the year. Reports from the Wharfedale and Washburn Valleys suggest a species whose population is doing well; the re-colonisation of Washburn is well established, with four at both Farnley Lake on 5th April and between Lindley Wood and Folly Hall on 1st September. Strid Woods held at least five on 6th May with 14 in Middleton Woods constituting the best count there for several years. A pair bred in a woodcrete box in a garden at Burley, raising four young, while 14 juveniles were ringed from two nests in Folly Hall Wood. An estimated 20 were present at Fountain's Abbey/Studley Royal throughout the year and up to four visited garden feeders at Daw Cross, Harrogate. A pair bred within a stone wall below Ripon Cathedral fledging three young, whilst elsewhere in the Harrogate recording area a pair bred in a nestbox at Galphay. Indicative of a healthy population, at least five pairs bred on the Malham Tarn Estate, two successfully in nest boxes.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* **A**
Fairly common resident, absent from higher ground. BBS 12/211
The sedentary British population of the race *britannica* is may be slightly decreasing in the county, matching national trends, with occasional migrants of the nominate form in autumn on the coast. Numbers were down nationally this year.

Clearly widely distributed across the county in low numbers; aggregations in the York area included five along the River Ouse at Naburn during March/April and four along the Ebor Way on 10th December. Singles at North Cave on 1st March and again on 30th July represented only the second/third records for the reserve and unsurprisingly scarce in the Spurn area; singles were logged at Easington on 4th March, Kilnsea on 4th July and finally, at the Point on 30th July.

The Little Don Valley hosted six on 11th August and there were regular records from the Worsbrough Valley, with a maximum of seven on 31st March, and two adults were accompanied by four juveniles in trees alongside Worsbrough Res on 6th July. The environs of Winterset continue to be attractive with regular sightings from both Haw Park and Pits Wood with seven on 24th January including six at the former location. Only two pairs held territory around Winterset, disappointing when compared to the six pairs present in 2007. Six frequented Bretton Park on 14th February, while woodland at Fairburn Ings held two breeding pairs during the summer.

The highest counts in the Halifax area involved six at both Crimsworth Dean on 14th July and Ogden on 22nd September. Further north eight were in Hartly Wood, Micklefield in early January and at least four were at Farnley during February and the same number at Norwood Bottom in April; however, numbers in the Bardsey area near Wetherby appeared to be lower than recent years.

In the Harrogate district seven were trapped at Ellington Banks and five in Ripon Parks during the year, with three trapped at High Batts NR on 18th October. Although there was at least one successful breeding pair on the Malham Tarn Estate, there were fewer records than normal; this decrease was reflected in several other areas and perhaps the succession of poor summers and more inclement winters is having an effect.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* **A** 8,3,2,17,7
Red list: rare passage migrant mainly in spring: bred in 1992
This species maintains a small breeding population in East Anglia, at the western edge of its range that extends from Morocco north to southern Norway and east to Mongolia. Spring records could include overshooting British birds, but are more likely to be of continental origin.

The year's first flew from the Crown & Anchor at Kilnsea towards the Blue Bell late in the evening on 15th May (CCR: DWi: JWo). A male initially located on Beacon Lane on 18th May visited the Churchyard, Long Bank and Sammy's Point the following day and presumably the same individual was then relocated over the Triangle on 20th May (NG *et al.*). A presumed immature male ranged widely between the Church and the Warren at Spurn on 20th May and was trapped and ringed at the Warren late in the day (RTT *et al.*). Spurn's last record related to a 'green' individual west over the Triangle and then up the Humber at 0640 hrs on 22nd May (AAH *et al.*). A singing male located at Low Wood YWT, Riddlesden, near Keighley on 7th June was an excellent find (SBri: DG); it was then heard again two days later and represents only the third record for the Bradford area. Subsequently there were two sightings at Flamborough: a female/immature frequented Old Fall on 10th June (PAL) and one in similar plumage flew over South Landing on 16th June (PAL).

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* **A** 12,14,11,46,9
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce passage migrant; formerly bred
This species is now extinct in Britain, but breeds from Portugal north to Scandinavia and east to western Siberia, with birds migrating via the eastern Mediterranean to winter in Africa.

A female photographed at Black Holes in Langdale Forest on 23rd April was unusually early (BWA). Additionally four more singles made landfall in spring, all typically between the second weeks of May and June: a male in the Triangle at Spurn on 9th/10th May (AAH *et al.*) preceded singles at the Tip, Filey (J&TGD *et al.*) and Saltwick Nab (AJM) on 15th May. South Landing, Flamborough then hosted the last of spring when a male was discovered on 11th June (PAL *et al.*).

The lack of autumn easterlies resulted in a desultory showing. A male was photographed at Ganton Golf Course on 12th August (JMo), while a juvenile at the Point from 15th-20th September was Spurn's only record (JHod: RWr *et al.*). There were two during October: a first-winter near the Golf Course at Flamborough on 10th October (PC *et al.*) followed by another of similar age that stayed in residence at Bempton from 22nd-31st October.



GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* **A** 18,3,7,21,13
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor
This species breeds from Scandinavia eastwards through to North America, with birds moving south in winter. It occurs as a coastal passage bird in the county, but small numbers also winter inland in Britain.

A legacy of 2008, a single remained in Wykeham Forest from the start of the year until 1st April and was even heard singing in late March. In East Yorkshire a single was discovered near South Carr Farm at Wawne on 14th January, but otherwise most records came from the forests within the Ryedale/Scarborough area. A single near

Thornton–le–Dale on 13th February acted as a precursor to at least one in residence within Langdale Forest from 22nd February through to 16th April. Nearby a single remained at Middleton Moor, Ryedale from 4th–24th March and another appeared at Hartoft Rigg on 12th April. Further inland a single frequented wires beside the B6265 at Linton near Grassington on 13th April and was still present the following day.

Thorne Moors attracted the first returning individual on 30th September and it then remained until 26th November. Coastal migrants were especially scarce, but included a single at Wheatcroft Cliff, south of Scarborough on 19th/20th October and another in Filey CP on 22nd October. In the final two months the forests to the west of Scarborough again proved popular, starting with a single in the same clearing within Wykeham Forest from 6th–11th November. One remained elusive within Langdale Forest on 20th and 23rd November and finally RAF Fylingdales hosted a single on 19th and 23rd November, with two present there on 10th December.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* **A** 1,0,1,3,2
Rare migrant; 33 previous records

Breeds from France and north–west Africa east to southern Iran, wintering in Africa south of the Sahara. A single discovered at the Calder Wetlands, adjacent to Pugney’s CP, on May 24th gave superb views to a succession of birders (CEA: DPr: PS *et al.*); its discovery coincided with the appearance of Collared Pratincole, Buff–breasted Sandpiper, three Whiskered Terns, and a Red–footed Falcon at sites in South/West Yorkshire, an unprecedented treat for landlocked birders.

Although initially masquerading as a Red–backed, a juvenile at Sammy’s Point from 16th–20th September was soon re–identified (IS: ICW *et al.*). Showing well, it was especially appreciated by hordes of photographers who were able to test their skills on a particularly obliging individual.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* **A**
Fairly common resident, and scarce migrant, absent from high ground. BBS 28/211
Population thought to be stable. A combination of its secretive nature allied to its preference for large oak woodlands tends to restrict records although it has also benefitted from commercial afforestation. Lack of habitat means it is scarcer at the coast, but irruptive movements sometimes occur in autumn. In contrast to last year there was no appreciable autumn influx of migrants.

Typically scarce along the coast with all records confined to post–breeding dispersal during the autumn. Four visited Long Nab and a single appeared at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 11th October followed by three at Ravenscar on 15th October. A duo at Filey on 7th October represented the first of the year there, with two more on 10th and a single on 20th October. To the south Flamborough recorded its best showing for ten years starting with two at South Landing on 27th September and another at Old Fall three days later. October opened with a single on 2nd and three toured Flamborough on 10th; singles on 25th and 28th October were Flamborough’s last. Spurn logged five over Canal Scrape and then back north on 7th October with a single similarly on 13th. Within the Hull Valley it remains an uncommon resident and autumn migrant, with sightings increasing appreciably from the end of September; Tophill Low’s sole records were singles on 4th October, 12th/13th October and finally on 15th November.

Most concentrations occurred during the autumn, although 19 frequented the Shipley Glen area in mid–March and Allerthorpe Common hosted ten on 13th March. In the latter period ten at Ulley CP on 19th September included seven that headed east, nine frequented trees adjacent to Ingbirchworth Res on 26th September, eight were recorded at Rod Moor on 26th September and a party of 12 over Wintersett on September 27th was considered exceptional. Another pulse of movement was witnessed during the first week of October including: seven west over Redmires Res and 14 south–east over Snailsden during vis mig on 4th October, when a further ten visited Staveley NR and, finally, the Shibden Valley hosted a party of 12 the next day.

MAGPIE *Pica pica* **A**
Common resident. BBS 107/211: –25% (–3) 1995–2009, +3% (–2) 2008–09

After massive increases since the mid–1960s, the trend shown by BBS appears to be downwards. Nevertheless, this species has become well–adapted to urban and suburban life. It is widespread in the county except from managed moorlands in the west where it is still regarded as a pest and where nesting habitat is unavailable.

The status within Upper Wharfedale was described as ‘a common breeding resident, generally with a stable population, but increasing in the urban environment’ and this fits the picture across many parts of Yorkshire. It remains scarce in many moorland areas, presumably due to a combination of unsuitable habitat and the effects of control by gamekeepers. To illustrate this there was a lack of records from the Grimwith area of the Yorkshire Dales and only a single sighting from the Bolton Abbey Estate.

However, the population in some areas seems to be decreasing and the roost within Gledhow Valley Woods near Leeds held fewer numbers for the fourth consecutive year at least, with a best of 35 in the western half and 85 at the east end of the wood; this compares with combined totals of 130 (in 2008), 215 (in 2007) and 265 (in 2006).

Elsewhere more substantial roosts included: 59 at Filey Dams on 4th January; 42 at Pugney’s CP on January 11th; 82 at Wilthorpe Marsh, Barnsley on 18th January; 40 at Aldwarke SF on 25th January and finally, 60 roosted at Woodseats Allotments, Sheffield on 2nd December.

A single at Wintersett CP on 29th September had been stung to death at a wasps nest.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* **A**
Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 125/211: +58% (+43) 1995–2009, +5% (+3) 2008–09
The resident British race *spermologus* is particularly numerous in North Yorkshire and on upland margins in South and West Yorkshire, and the upward population trend is particularly obvious in the region. It moved up the table of most common birds in Yorkshire this year from 10th to 7th place.

There were reports from all areas of the county, with the exception of the moorland plateau. Large gatherings were regularly reported from breeding colonies, roost sites and feeding parties on farmland, with no evidence of any change in status.

A flock of 1000 near Nunthorpe during January was considered unusual and further south records suggested that it is becoming more widespread within Ryedale, with 700 at Pickering on 9th December. The largest roost again occurred near Tophill Low with 5000 present on 7th and 18th January; numbers then dropped to 1800 by 1st March. In the second half of the year Tophill hosted 800 on 28th August and 2000 tracked north there on 25th October.

In the west of the county the largest numbers were 1600 heading north–east from a roost at Bradway near Sheffield on 17th October and there were impressive numbers from several locations within the Leeds area: 1250 fed in fields north of Eccup Res and 2000 roosted near Yeadon Tarn on 13th February. The population within Upper Wharfedale is considered to be either stable or slightly increasing, with a best of 435 leaving a roost at Stainburn on 17th October.

Record numbers moved south through Spurn during the spring with 625 logged from 6th March and 8th June. The previous spring record of 95 was smashed when 280 (including flocks of 130 and 105) headed south on 31st March. Other high counts included 53 in off the sea on 15th March and 31 on 7th April. In contrast, autumn passage was slow, with just 27 heading south and 40 ‘U–turning’ between 6th September and 8th November.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* **A**
Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 104/211: –61% (–3) 1995–2009, +5% (–5) 2008–09

The local populations of this Eurasian species are mostly resident, but form communal winter roosts. The long–term population trend is worryingly downwards, although counts were up this year.

The highest numbers were recorded in the east of the county and within the Hull Valley there were 1900 at Tophill Low on 7th & 18th January followed by a subsequent reduction to 800 by 1st March. A roost at Lingholmes held 500 on 21st August but then peaked at 2000 on 25th September.

A decline was apparent in certain areas in the south–west including in the Worsbrough Valley near Barnsley; within the valley long established rookeries at Bell Bank Wood and Round Green held fewer pairs than formerly. This decline was also reflected at Stocksbridge where the colony contained 62 nests as compared to 80 (2008) and reflects a general decline in numbers since 1999.

In the Leeds area 1100 congregated in fields housing pig pens on Collingham Moor on 27th June, with over 500 present at the same site during the winter periods. In October and early November 700 tracked over Yeadon Tarn heading for a roost. Leventhorpe Hall traditionally hosted one of the largest rookeries within the Leeds area, but is now only approximately half the size it once was.

The Calderdale Bird Conservation Group and Halifax Birdwatchers Club conducted a rookery survey throughout their recording area, with previous such studies carried out 1964 and 1975. In total 864 nests were located from 50 colonies (average of 17.23 nests per colony), with Greetland hosting the largest colony of 65 nests. This contrasts with 1913 nests located at 37 sites in 1964 (average of 51.7 nests per colony) and 1986 nests located in 1975, including 360 within a rookery at Denton Bridge; in 2009 the latter colony was reduced to a mere 13 nests.

Spring passage through Spurn produced 496 heading south between 19th February and 24th May, with bests of 41 on 31st March; 38 on 1st April, 36 on 10th, 40 on 12th and 40 on 22nd April. Passage was slower between 6th September and 11th December and involved just 80 south and 38 which ‘U–turned’.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* **A**
Abundant and widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 186/211: +82% (+18) 1995–2009, –33% (0) 2008–09

Has become one of the county’s most widespread birds, possibly due to a reduction in keeping activity, and increasingly noted in urban areas. It is still largely absent from managed moorland areas. Large gatherings are not uncommon. There was a surprising decrease in BBS records in 2009.

Near the coast Seamer Tip attracted 200 on 30th January, while smaller numbers frequented the Scalby Lodge area, including 91 on 15th March and 56 still on 26th July. Gamekeepers on East Yorkshire estates clearly control populations, so perhaps unsurprisingly one of the highest counts came from a more urban setting, with East Park, Hull attracting 118 on 17th January.

Thorne Moors hosted 60 during March and 100 in October while 160 congregated on nearby Hatfield Moors on 8th November. Elsewhere in South Yorkshire a large corvid roost at Haw Park near Wintersetts contained 700 corvids during March and 1500 in October; a significant proportion consisting of this species. There were several significant aggregations within the Leeds area including: 258 on Collingham Moor on 26th April, 250 by Skelton Lake on 21st October, 152 at Eccup Res on 30th October and over 100 overflying Rodley NR at dusk on 19th December.

At least 100 gathered at High Royd Sewage Farm on 10th May, 200 were recorded at Hartshead on 20th October and 144 congregated on Swales Moor on 23rd December. As evidence of the scale of control in certain areas, 150 were reportedly shot in the Upper Luddenden Valley during the course of the year.

Spurn experienced a superb spring passage with 717 heading south between 6th March and 29th May, including an all-time record of 129 on 2nd May. Other high counts included 33 on 12th April, 49 on 22nd, 35 on 23rd April; and 75 on 1st May. The autumn passage was much quieter, confined to just 23 tracking south between 2nd September and 4th November.



Carrion Crow ◉
Ray Scally

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* **A** 6,3,9,19,8
Rare visitor, usually on passage, with occasional winter records

Breeds in Ireland, the Isle of Man and north-west Scotland, but also in northern and central Europe, where the northern populations are migratory and no doubt account for sightings on the east coast.

Unusual over recent years, several over-wintered in the first period with a single in residence at Seamer Tip until 8th February and up to three in fields adjacent to North Dykes, Flamborough until 18th April.

Typically several then graced coastal locations during the spring, starting with a single near Filey CP on 6th April (HO). One that tracked north-west at Boulby on 22nd April (MAB) preceded a single at Newbiggin, Filey on 25th/26th April (AN *et al.*). There were two records in May: a single headed south at Spurn on 15th May (SGW *et al.*) and the following day one graced Flamborough.

A lone individual at Seamer Tip on 16th July was unseasonal (NWA), while the only other records during the second half of the year were confined to October: one at Beacon Ponds relocated to the Humber shore off the Crown & Anchor on 2nd (AA *et al.*) and three days later another appeared near Wawne (MPe).

RAVEN *Corvus corax* **A**
Scarce but increasing resident in west, rare in east. BBS 6/211

This Holarctic species used to breed widely until persecution began 200 years ago. Retains a foothold in the west with increasing numbers of non-breeders in the Dales and more records further east.

Extralimital records included two heading over Wintersetts to roost in Haw Park on February 23rd; at least one then headed east from there the following morning. Apart from a record at Wintersetts in 1994, the one prior to that was shot in 1813. Fairburn hosted a single on 27th February before Spurn’s sixth ever ‘U-turned’ over the Triangle on 11th March. A few days later a single flew south-east over Housedale, Dalby Forest on 16th March. In April a pair flew south-west over Rother Valley CP on 6th and later north-east over Thrybergh Tip on 12th. A single flew over Escrick on 1st July (with presumably the same at Clifton Ings on 7th July) and South Anston hosted two on 3rd July. A single headed south-east over Sunk Island on 25th September and three circled over Haw Park near Wintersetts the next day before leaving to the west. In October two headed south-east over Roche Abbey on 7th October followed by a single over Moorgate on 14th and two in off the sea at Flamborough on 19th. Finally a single lingered at Fairburn Ings on 19th/20th December.

However, the vast majority of records came from along the Pennines and Yorkshire Dales starting with one pair attempting to breed near Sheffield and at least one other pair present during the breeding season. Maxima near Sheffield included seven at Margery Hill on 29th March; five over Burbage Moor on 11th July; 14 in the Upper Ewden Valley on 12th September and nine at Agden Side the next day. Records were received from at least 19 locations within the Huddersfield area, although no more than two were noted on any single day. A tally of 83 records from 33 sites represented an increase within the Halifax area and included groups of five at Midgley Moor on 25th May, Castle Carr on 29th May and at Widdop on 16th June. Two pairs bred around Halifax, with display also noted from two other sites. Immediately to the north there were frequent records from around Barden Scale, including seven on 9th July and scattered reports were also received from Thornton Moor Res, Rombalds Moor and the Washburn Valley. There were far more records from Upper Wharfedale, mostly involving no more than two together, although included a pair feeding a juvenile in April.

The year was described as disappointing in the Harrogate area with very few records. However, a pair was seen at a former breeding site, although successful breeding was considered unlikely. Nine sites were occupied in the Yorkshire Dales, with 20 young fledging from six successful nests.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: abundant but decreasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 123/211: –54% (–46) 1995–2009, –29% (–21) 2008–09

British and north European populations have been declining and it has also been decreasing steadily in Yorkshire. 2009 saw a further decrease in recording in BBS squares.

A roost at Sutton-on-the-Forest held 5000 on 18th January; numbers subsequently reached 7000 on 9th February, then 10,000 by 23rd February and peaked at 12,000 by 5th March. Near Leeds 1200 visited Skelton Lake on 21st January and 1550 fed on Collingham Moor in the same month. Flocks congregated at several locations prior to a spring exodus: a roost in Otley held 10,000 during March, 5000 congregated at Heslington on 9th March and Deer Hill hosted 1000 on 14th March.

Numbers also started to build at Spurn during March, with 1000 present on 14th and 16th. However a new spring record was set when an impressive flock of 9000 fed in the Triangle on 19th March. Southerly passage at Spurn was better than average, with 8628 logged between 19th February and 9th May, including highs of: 1120 on 12th, 1375 on 18th, 1080 on 21st and 800 on 22nd March.

Spurn’s autumn started on 8th September and in total 5656 flew south and 10,587 came in off the sea until 30th November. The largest numbers recorded moving south were 1800 on 14th and 2700 on 31st October, while 2000 came in off on 14th, 2500 on 15th October; and 3700 on 8th November.

Inland an influx at Wintersetts saw numbers increase from 3000 on 4th September to 5000 roosting by mid-October. Stainburn in Wharfedale experienced a more dramatic increase from 500 at the end of August to 1100 on 17th October then 10,000 were present by 31st; similar numbers remained at the end of November. However it was the roost at Nosterfield Quarry that best reflected the size of the continental influx: 50,000 were present on 7th September followed by similar numbers on 25th October. The build-up continued with 100,000 in the roost on 31st October, numbers peaked at 130,000 on 4th November before reducing to 50,000 at Nosterfield on 12th November.

Elsewhere the autumn influx was evident either via burgeoning feeding flocks, the sudden establishment of roost sites, or by visible migration, the latter especially prevalent along the Pennines. In October, 690 headed south-west over Hunter Hill, Halifax on 13th, 2935 flew west at Flamborough the following day and 350 headed

west over Buckton and 5000 roosted at Southfield Res on 15th October. A total of 2000 headed west over Southfield Res and 699 headed north over Oxenhope, Bradford on 16th October and the next day witnessed 768 south–west at Hunter Hill and 1433 north over Oxenhope on 17th October. The influx continued on 18th October when 1250 flew west over Redmires Res, 1900 headed west over Rother Valley CP and 1084 flew north over Oxenhope and 1500 assembled at Peat Pits, Sheffield the next day. A subsequent lull in visible migration occurred, although 2000 flew south–east at dusk over Welton Waters on 22nd October, 2500 dropped in at Old Moor on 26th October, followed by 2690 at nearby Bolton Ings the following day. However, activity increased during the last few days of October starting with 290 heading west over Redmires Res on 28th, followed by 1345 tracking north over Oxenhope the next day. The month ended with 374 heading north–west over Snailsden on 30th October and finally, 1256 moved west over Winterset, 1305 flew south–west over Hunter Hill and 4265 tracked north over Oxenhope on 31st October.

Large flocks were evident at several locations during November, although reduced visible migration suggested a slowing of immigration. Fields near Blackmoorfoot Res hosted 2000 during the first week of November, 30,000 roosted at Potteric Carr on 3rd, 5000 flew east over Welton on 7th and 1200 roosted at Winterset the next day. Tophill Low then hosted a roost of 2000 and 10,000 dropped in at Fairburn Ings both on 13th November; 2000 roosted in Hornsea churchyard on 15th and an influx of 1000 occurred at Beal Carrs on 16th November.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: abundant resident but has decreased
BBS 99/211: –13% (–20) 1995–2009, +2% (0) 2008–09

Closely associated with older built–up areas and farms. BBS results suggest a halt to the long–term decline this year, although noted from a slightly smaller percentage of survey squares.

There is still little by way of detailed recording, though the population in Guisborough is well–monitored and the BTO Atlas project has helped to identify some healthy populations. Rural locations now hold far fewer than more urban areas, with domestic gardens and allotments now hosting important numbers.

The placing of feeders clearly assists; in a suburb of Sheffield up to 60 were seen availing themselves of the provided food in January while, more rurally, Winterset Res had increasing numbers on feeders adjacent to the car park.

Reported flocks generally numbered up to 30, though several held around 45. Higher counts included 60 in Kilnsea on 17th January, 110 there on 6th August and 79 remaining on 5th September. Other post–breeding aggregations included 70 at Buckton on 30th August, 74 at Ellingworth on 18th June and 75 at Hummersea on 7th July. At Burniston there were 80 on 12th August, 80 at Little Kelk on 21st August and also 80 at Flamborough on 13th October and again on 1st November. The highest recorded flock appeared on the edge of Filey with 150 present on 18th July. BTO Atlas surveying in the Leeds area produced counts of 104 at Rothwell, 129 at Sherburn–in–Elmet and 137 at Micklefield.

Limited passage was noted at Spurn during the autumn with only 41 logged in total and the day count never exceeded ten.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon resident; very recent population recovery. BBS 52/187

After a population crash between the late 1970s and early 1990s, there has been a recent increase in numbers, particularly since 2006, although still below previous levels. Nationally numbers were slightly down this year.

A healthy population exists along the eastern fringe including south–east of Middlesbrough, around Scarborough and Filey and especially at Flamborough. Encouragingly, in the west a breeding population is slowly establishing at Clifton, Washburn in Upper Wharfedale. In contrast records were only received from three locations in the Bradford area, now almost absent from Pugney’s CP and described as ‘hanging on’ in the Worsbrough Valley. While only involving small numbers, Rodley NR recorded its best year to date; six pairs bred at Fairburn Ings.

Clearly wildlife friendly farming is having a beneficial effect in several of the aforementioned sites; in addition the provision of artificial feeders and nest boxes is playing a major role in survival and breeding success. For example, at Winterset Res 70 were present daily at the feeders and nest boxes hosted in excess of 50 pairs and 353 young were subsequently ringed between May and July. At Buckton 115 juveniles were ringed from just seventeen nest boxes from May to August. Reflecting the density of breeding population, every farm visited on The Carrs inland of Scarborough held pairs.

Flock sizes of up to 80 were often recorded at a number of sites with larger numbers including: 120 feeding on barley stubble at Staveley Carrs on 3rd January and 107 at Flamborough on 14th February. Later in the year

there were even higher numbers at Flamborough including whole Headland counts of with 225 on 27th October, 503 present on 9th November and 299 on 19th December.

While resident in some areas, in others a presence is confined to the breeding season, as exemplified by the first two returning to Buckton on 28th February after a mid–winter absence and in the autumn 75 on 9th October had all left by the month end. At Speeton 16 headed south on 3rd September, with 21 similarly three days later, at a time when many local pairs were still raising third broods. At the same location 266 flew south on 25th October. At Spurn, a total of 36 flew south between 28th February and 10th April, but far higher numbers were recorded during the autumn. An impressive 4386 were logged heading south and in addition over 2000 were ringed by the Observatory; the highest counts were of 700 on 11th October, 450 on 25th and 425 the following day, with 480 noted at Spurn on 2nd November.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* **A**
Abundant and widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 187/211: +34% (+14) 1995–2009, –27% (–1) 2008–09

The long–term trend has shown a substantial increase but in common with many species, there was a decline in recording in 2009. It is the second most widespread species, and the fifth most numerous in the county BBS survey.

Large flocks were frequently recorded where there were game cover crops, stubble or artificially provided seed. At High Hoyland 250 were in game cover on 14th January with 150 still there on 1st March. In the York area, 200 were in stubble at Elvington on 30th January and ‘hundreds’ were among a 1000–strong mixed finch flock at Allerthorpe Common on 7th April. Around 40 availed themselves of the car park feeders at Winterset Res in January and up to 50 visited the Malham Tarn feeding stations in March and April. Around Scarborough, 150 were present in late January at Ellerburn Bank and 80 used feeders in the Forge Valley on 28th March which included a grey variant. A roost at Ulley Res held 60 on 17th February.

Clearly a widespread and common breeder, indication of population densities included 38 pairs in the Little Don Valley on 11th May and 27 singing males there on 8th June. There were 35 singing males in Wharnccliffe Wood on 25th May and late in the same month, 27 males were noted at Ingbirchworth. A census at Tophill Low discovered 65 pairs and there were 41 pairs at Fairburn Ings. It is also now commoner around Malham Tarn than is Willow Warbler.

In the latter half of the year a roost at Hundale Plantation, Long Nab held 60 on 26th September and a very impressive 432 roosted on Thorne Moors on 10th November, while nearby Southfield Res attracted 65 at a feeding area on 30th November. Haverah Park, in Harrogate held 74 birds on 13th December and up to 40 fed on seed near Staveley between autumn and the year–end.

Perhaps linked to the cold weather at the start of the year 134 headed west at Redmires Res on 20th February. A total of 900 moved south at Spurn between 17th February and 24th May, most passing through in late March and early April with a best of 185 on 27th March. There was a late surge of females through Spurn in May, including 25 recorded on 20th.

Towards the end of the year visible migration was widespread and mostly in a westerly or south–westerly direction. Autumn passage at Spurn comprised of 470 heading south and 44 coming in off the sea between 22nd September and 9th December, with highest day counts of 65 on 29th October and 134 on 2nd November. A total of 1340 moved through the Bradford area during the autumn, including 150 over Paul Clough on 9th September. Elsewhere, 71 passed Hoober Strand in two hours on 4th October and 72 tracked south–east at Hunter Hill, Halifax on 23rd October. On 28th October 266 flew south–west over Marsden and 250 headed west over Redmires Res, while further north the well watched visible migration hot–spots of Stainburn Moor and Oxenhope only recorded 25 and ten south respectively the same day.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* **A**
Uncommon to fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers

Breeds from Scandinavia east to the Bering Sea; migrants mostly pass through the county to winter further south, but flocks attracted to beech mast will over–winter while supplies remain.

Several areas including Halifax and the Hull Valley described a below average year with few flocks above ten, although Rotherham reported a relatively good spread of records. Larger counts included 50 leaving a roost in Wykeham Forest on 4th January and 50 feeding in the game cover crop at High Hoyland the following day, rising to 150 there on 1st March. In addition there were 50 in fields near Austerfield Sand Quarry on 13th March. Passage was typically light along the coast during spring, with best counts at Spurn involving 15 on 12th April, 35 on 14th and 10 on 15th.

The year's most interesting report came from Malham Tarn, where a singing male took up residence at the west end of Pot Hole Lane from 15th–25th June; not surprisingly it failed to attract a mate.

Two returned at Spurn on 15th September, but it was a quiet autumn with single figures the norm. Recorded daily from 7th October to early November, Spurn's better counts included 36 on 13th and 64 on 27th October; in addition 39 flew south and nine came in off the sea. Autumn passage at Flamborough produced 100 on 10th October, 31 on 14th, 47 on 15th and ten on 22nd October, while Filey's best was 39 on 14th October.

Visible migration produced 13 west over Wharnccliffe Chase on 16th October, 45 over Redmires Res on 18th and 134 there on 28th October.

Late in the year higher numbers included 20 at Barden on 7th November and 25 at both John O'Gaunt and Haverah Park on 13th December. Kelk Beck hosted 30 on 20th December and finally there were 25 at Flasks Lake on 30th.

SERIN *Serinus serinus* A

6,5,1,4,1

Amber list: rare passage migrant; 59 previous records

Breeds commonly through continental Europe to north-west Africa.

At Spurn, an immature/female spent a short period in the Warren bushes on 7th May before flying off north; it was later seen heading west from Beacon Lane at 1030hrs (AAH *et al.*).

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* A

Common resident and passage migrant

BBS 116/211: +9% (+13) 1995–2009, –9% (–7) 2008–09

A mostly European species that is resident in the county, although there is some seasonal movement and immigration from Fennoscandia. This species has suffered a reverse in fortunes since 2005 due to trichomonosis disease.

Whether under-recorded, or evidence of a decline due to the well-publicised problems caused by a parasite, there were again few reports. Numbers were reduced at Pugney's CP, Thorne Moors and Ryedale while passage was also lower than average through Spurn. Clearly better reporting would help reflect the state of the population decline. During the breeding season Fairburn Ings held at least sixteen breeding pairs and at least six pairs bred at Tophill Low.

The largest early-year figure came from the roost at Yeadon Tarn, where there were 300 early on reducing to less than 50 by mid-February. January flocks included 60 at Southfield Res on 1st, 120 at Sheffield University on 8th/9th and 94 roosted at Mosborough on 18th. Fifty roosted at Aston, Sheffield on 27th January while the highly attractive game cover crop at High Hoyland held over 350 during the month. In February, 90 remained at Sheffield University on 3rd, 120 roosted at Hull's Ice Arena on 4th, 80 flocked at Shibden, Halifax the following day and the Aston roost hosted 60 on 13th February.

Stoney Royd near Barnsley attracted 150 on 31st August and 120 had returned to Yeadon Tarn by late in the month, with the roost increasing to 300 by mid-December. Stubble fields hosted 60 at Staveley NR on 12th September and 40 at Bardsey on 15th October, but a good seed crop at Rodley NR failed to prove attractive. Over 100 were on Hatfield Moors on 20th November, rising to more than 150 by 28th, with similar numbers remaining until the year-end. Swaithe, Barnsley also held 100 on 22nd November and a similar number gathered pre-roost at Hornsea Mere on 29th November. Finally in the Scarborough district 120 fed on sunflowers at Foulbridge on 9th December.

Visible migration over Oxenhope logged 740 during the autumn, including a maximum of 210 on 4th October, when an additional 132 moved west over Redmires Res; the latter site then recorded 51 west on 11th and 69 on 28th October.

A Greenfinch/Goldfinch hybrid was trapped and ringed at Thorpe Marsh on 28th November.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* A

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

BBS 137/211: +116% (+46) 1995–2009, +128% (+11) 2008–09

Britain's resident race *britannica* mostly winters overseas to the south in France and Spain, but some birds are present year-round in the county, with passage from further north in Britain. The long-term population trend is upwards, and there was a further substantial increase in 2009.

Increasing numbers are visiting garden feeders, where the provision of nyger seed is proving ever more attractive. Evidence of breeding densities included 13 pairs at Winterset Res, 17 at Fairburn Ings, 18 pairs at Tophill Low and seven at Spurn.

Most significant flocks were in the second half of the year although Gypsy Corner near York hosted 60 on 6th January, with 125 at High Hoyland on 5th January increasing to 250 there on 10th January; in addition, Old Moor hosted 76 on 22nd February.

Later in the year 100 gathered at Old Moor on 27th July, while August maxima included: 180 at Wharnccliffe Chase on 21st; 60 at Ogden on 13th, 80 at Sutton-on-the-Forest on 14th August; 350 at Old Moor on 15th; 160 at Wykeham Lakes on 29th and finally 60 at Pugney's CP on 29th/30th. In September the largest flock sizes were 200 in the Fylingdales/Langdale Forest area on 24th, 270 gathered in Anglers CP on 26th and 210 visited Edderthorpe on 27th. There were also flocks of at least 100 at both Ha Mire Wood and West Fen near Malham Tarn on 20th September.

October counts included 120 at North Cave Wetlands on 2nd, 400 at Flasks Lake, Harrogate on 11th, 200 at Anglers CP and at Staveley NR on 17th and up to 190 at Worsbrough during October. Numbers started to reduce during November, with bests of 86 at Long Nab on 6th, 120 in Church Ravine, Filey on 12th, 80 in Haw Park, Winterset on 20th and up to 100 on Thorne Moors and 200 at Worsbrough. In December there were 60 at Ogden on 23rd and a pre-roost flock of 100 at Emley Moor on 25th. Other high counts included 70 at Thorpe Marsh and 75 at Cudworth Common on 28th and 100 remained in residence at Methley Bridge throughout December.

Spring passage through Spurn represented the best for six years, with 1797 moving south between 19th February and 29th May with a high of 141 on 26th April. In contrast the autumn passage was the lowest since 2003 with 3924 heading south between 29th August and 23rd December, with a best of 850 on 11th October. Elsewhere, 45 moved south-east at Hatfield Moors on 22nd October and 420 tracked over Oxenhope during the autumn.



SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* **A**

Scarce breeding resident; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 5/211

Breeds in upland conifer plantations, but visitors to gardens in winter may include immigrants from northern Europe. There is insufficient local breeding data to identify trends, but nationally it has increased by 34% since 1995.

In January 80 frequented Cawthorne Dyke on 1st, 50 were at Farnham GP on 12th, Old Moor attracted 40 on 22nd, Harthill Res hosted 50 and Askham Bog 90 on 25th and a regular flock at Elland GP peaked at 40 on 28th.

High counts in February included 61 at Old Moor on 9th, 50 at Bretton on 14th and 50 at Damflask East on 16th. In April 100 formed part of a large finch flock at Allerthorpe Common on 7th.

Only 80 headed south at Spurn during spring with highest counts of 17 on 12th April and ten the following day.

Breeding behaviour was observed at a number of locations and in the York area Fulford Golf Course hosted a singing male on 24th March and two were singing and displaying at White Syke Plantation, Sand Hutton on 31st March. A male was in song and showing courtship behaviour in Stainborough Park on 29th March, with two present on 18th April, although breeding was not confirmed. The woodlands west of Sheffield clearly hold a breeding population, with seven males on territory at Langsett Res and three at Midhope Res. A male was singing at Normanton Spring on 18th March, four were singing/showing territorial behaviour near Charltonbrook and a pair was at Midhope Moor on 24th March. A group of 11 at Agden Res on 30th March included a singing male and Redmires Res hosted three males in song flight on 12th April. In May, a female was seen feeding two fledged juveniles in Redmires Plantation on 3rd, three males were singing at Wyming Brook on 10th and an adult was carrying food in the Langsett/Little Don Valley area on 11th. Further north an adult was collecting nest material at Eccup Res on 2nd April.

September highs included 50 at Broomhead Res on 22nd and 100 at Low Dam, Upper Wharfedale on 28th, while flocks of 80 aggregated at Langsett Wood and Wilthorpe Marsh on 13th October and Cawthorne Dyke on 28th. In November there were 85 at Tophill Low on 3rd and 50 at Broomhead Res on 22nd.

On 25th October 50 flew south over Castle Hill and 200 tracked south over Cloughton, while 82 moved south at Long Nab on 6th November. Visible migration studies at Speeton were rewarded with 45 south on 5th October, 229 on 18th and an impressive 1143 in three hours on 25th October. Flamborough witnessed an upsurge in records between September and early December, peaking at 207 recorded between 25th and 27th October. Autumn passage at Spurn spanned early September through to 14th December with 3054 logged south. The peak passage occurred during October, with highs of 407 on 23rd and 484 on 25th. Lower numbers were recorded heading south at Spurn in November, with 223 on 2nd, 195 on 6th and 143 on 15th.

Relatively few were observed from ‘vis mig’ watchpoints along the Pennines, with 27 heading south–west over Shibden and 20 west over Redmires Res on 25th October the heaviest movement witnessed.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: common resident and passage migrant

BBS 88/211: –24% (–34) 1995–2009, –9% (–4) 2008–09

A partial migrant, with some birds wintering in France and Spain. Numbers fell rapidly between the mid–1970s and mid–1980s, due to increased nest failure rates, and have fallen again since 2002. Although this decline appeared to have stalled in 2007 and 2008 it resumed this year.

Although described as resident, in several parts of the county it essentially remains a summer visitor and it was absent around Pugney’s CP and Halifax. Outside the breeding season, some substantial flocks of up to 100 built up at a wide range of locations. The first large gatherings related to 145 at Flamborough on 3rd/4th January, 150 at Wykeham Lakes on 4th and 300 in the game cover crop at High Hoyland on 26th; the latter flock increasing to 400 during February. Star Carr near Scarborough attracted 400 on 16th April.

Spring passage at Spurn totaled 3703 heading south between 18th February and 27th May, with peaks in early April and early May. High April counts included 308 on 4th, 554 on 10th, 300 on 12th and 292 on 23rd and May’s best referred to 123 on 1st.

Breeding was confirmed at many sites including Spurn, where an estimated 18 pairs bred; although success seemed a little lower than usual. Along the coast, a healthy population also remained at Flamborough, largely due to sympathetic farming practices. Inland fifteen pairs bred at Tophill Low, Strensall Common hosted eight territories, while eight pairs bred at Fairburn Ings and 20 pairs held territory at Winterset.

Post–breeding assemblages in September included 250 at Nosterfield NR during the month, 600 at Saltburn on 20th, 350 at Cloughton Wyke, near Scarborough on 23rd and 500 near Scalby Lodge Pond on 30th. During October, there were 350 at Axle Lane, Rotherham on 3rd and 220 at Flamborough on 7th. Numbers dropped off at the end of the year, although 200 were in residence at Lower Cumberworth on 4th December, with 100 still present on New Year’s Eve.

In the autumn, 4004 were logged south at Spurn between 5th September and 14th November. The heaviest movement took place in late September with 681 on 23rd, 450 on 24th, 642 on 25th and 403 on 28th.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce resident breeder in Pennines; uncommon migrant/ winter visitor

Birds of the British race *pipilans* breed colonially on moorlands in Scotland, Ireland and in the South Pennines SPA.

Two at Swillington Ings remained from New Year’s Day until 1st March and up to 11 over–wintered at Flamborough from the start of January through to 12th March. Elsewhere four flew south–west at Cayton on 6th January and two visited Filey on 24th January and Patrington Haven hosted 25 on 15th March.

A feeding station at Deer Hill Res near Huddersfield pulled in 30 on 21st March and 40 on 5th April; later in the year 50 were present on 29th August and 70 on 6th September. A total of 103 were trapped in the Huddersfield area during the year; 36 were retraps, of which 11 were ringed in 2007 and 25 ringed in 2008, while 29 were birds of the year. Over 60 records from the Halifax area represented a drop of 40% on the previous year – these came from nine locations between 16th March and 9th November; up to 16 were around Warley Moor in April, but the more significant counts came in September. Warley Moor held 26 on 19th September with 40 at Denby Delph, Rishworth the following day; the same site held larger numbers in October with 80 present on 13th. A pair nested on Haworth Moor for the first time in at least five years. In Upper Wharfedale, the only record came from Dale Head on Pen–y–Ghent Fell where five were present on 11th August. Outside the Upper Wharfedale recording area, a pair was at Siverdale on 28th June. Eleven were with other finches at Dallowgill on 12th August.

Ten returned to the coast at Scalby Beck on 17th September and Spurn recorded its first on 30th. Flamborough hosted 25 on 11th October and 30 on 28th, with six at Spurn on 27th and nine in cliff top grassland at Reighton on 31st October. Flamborough attracted 72 on 4th November, with other high tallies of 32 there on 7th and 30 on 17th November, while ten fed on the Humber shore at Spurn on 10th November. December’s records included seven in Ryedale on 1st, 12 at Whitton Sands on 5th (increasing to 20 on 6th/13th), 13 visited Ilton Moor and 40 Sunk Island on 13th and one frequented the reed bed area of Nosterfield Quarry from 27th–29th. In addition, up to 27 were in residence at Flamborough during the final week of the year.

A total of 235 flew south at Spurn between 5th October and 9th December, including 88 on 2nd November, with a further eight coming in off the sea the same day. Other passage counts at Spurn included 23 on 31st October, 24 on 17th November and 30 on 5th December.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 4/211

Breeds in northern and south–east Britain, wintering to the south. It is now largely absent from lowland areas in the county and has been declining in England, although nationally increased in 2009.

Flocks containing up to 20 were common, with flocks of up to 45 noted frequently. Outside of the breeding season records increased around Harrogate with 50 at Brimham Rocks on 26th January. However, the largest flocks were near Sheffield including 140 at Pit House West on 13th January, with the same number at High Hazels Park on 29th January, of which 47 were trapped and ringed. By 14th February the High Hazels’ flock had increased to 200 with a similar number in Wharncliffe Wood on 29th March. The last sizeable flocks in the Sheffield area numbered 50 in Beeley Wood and on Broomhead Moor on 4th and 19th April respectively. Further east 150 congregated at Barrow on 12th April.

Evidence of potential breeding was observed at several sites, with singing males at Blackburn Meadows on 1st April, Redmires Res on 12th April, Midhope Beck on 20th May, Lower Gorple near Halifax in late May/June and Snailsden Res on 1st June. Two pairs exhibiting territorial activity were noted at Ellerslie Lodge on 11th May and a pair was nest building at Fairthorn Clough near Sheffield on 18th June. Langsett Banks hosted two territorial males with another at Whitwell Moor. At least three juveniles were on Tarn Fen, Malham on 2nd May and a group at Widdop Road, Halifax on 22nd August included newly fledged juveniles. In the north–east up to five were present throughout the breeding season around Lockwood Beck.

Flocks in the Sheffield area again dominated in the latter quarter, starting with 50 at Pit House West on 4th November building to 100 three days later, on which date High Hazels Park held a further 70; the flock at Pit House West then increased to 130 by 8th December. Elsewhere there were 120 at Redhouse Wood near York on 11th November and 100 at Haverah Park near Harrogate on 20th December.

On the coast southbound passage at Spurn accounted for 768 ‘Redpolls’ between 23rd September and 4th December, with the highest count of 124 on 26th October. Flamborough’s best count of 52 came on 25th October, when 70 tracked south at Cloughton.

Inland 12 passed southwards over Swillington Ings on 26th September. At Winterset 30 moved south on 4th October, although movement peaked at the end of the month. Winterset witnessed 31 heading west on 25th October; the following day 46 flew south over Stainburn Moor, while 45 flew south at Southfield Res on 29th October.

COMMON (MEALY) REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* **A**

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

This species breeds further north than *cabaret*, across northern Europe, through Asia to North America. Subspecies also breed in south Greenland and Iceland. During eruption autumns, large numbers migrate through or winter in the county. However, the identification of this species is extremely difficult at times, especially in spring when confusion with Lesser Redpolls is a real issue.

The first two appeared at Castle Howard Lake on 7th January, followed by five with Lesser Redpoll in the game crop at High Hoyland on 26th January and High Hazels Park, Sheffield hosted at least five from 29th January–8th February. Other February records included: a single at Swillington Ings on 11th; up to six at Luddenden Dean from 19th February–15th April; a maximum of 16 feeding on nyger seed in a garden at Linthwaite through until 4th April; and up to four sporadically in the Old Moor/Broomhill area from 1st February–17th March and a single at Potteric Carr on 26th February. Relatively scarce in the Harrogate area, the first record related to a single over Nosterfield NR on 4th March. Other March singles were recorded at Cortonwood on 1st, at Potteric Carr on 3rd, in a garden at Fulwood, Sheffield on 8th and at Pit House West the next day.

In April three visited Meltham on 5th, one was at Allertorpe Common on 7th and Spurn’s first spring migrant appeared on 8th; followed by further records there on 13th/14th, three on 16th with one staying until 19th, and another single on 25th. Langdale Forest attracted 15 on 12th April, with six still present the following day when a single also visited Old Moor and a migrant visited Sammy’s Point on 14th. A single appeared at Higham on 15th, Fixby hosted another on 17th and three lingered at Shelley from 19th–24th April. Spurn recoreded up to two on six days until 23rd May with other late spring singles at Bolsterstone on 2nd May, Castle Hill, Scarborough and also Helk’s Gill, Ramsgill both on 16th May.

Records were scarcer during the second half of the year, starting with a single south at Spurn on 25th September. Old Fall, Flamborough hosted a single on 29th October with another at Firsby Res the following day. There were records at Spurn on four October dates, with two trapped at the Warren and Kew Villa on 18th and 31st respectively. November’s first was trapped at Kew on 2nd, followed by a single at Firsby Res on 10th and two at Potteric Carr on 23rd. December produced 12 at Luddenden Dean on 3rd, and a similar number again on garden feeders in Linthwaite on 13th, with one still present on 19th. Two graced Hatfield Moors on 20th and finally a single visited Thrybergh CP on 27th December.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* **A**

Scarce breeding resident, occasionally in numbers following irruption years. BBS 2/211

Resident in conifer woodland across the Palearctic and North America, nominate *curvirostra* includes further forms identifiable by bill size and call, one of which breeds in the county, and others may do so following irruptions.

Although reported widely and records were received from all months there was little evidence of breeding. A possible family party of five birds was present in Wharnccliffe Wood on 19th April and up to 50, including some juveniles, frequented the Swinsty Res/Timble Ings area between 1st August and 4th November. Mostly reports were of fewer than ten, with less frequent groups of around 25 being observed. The forested escarpments in the Guisborough area provided by far the largest gathering, with an exceptional 530 between Hutton Village and Westworth Wood on 24th July.

January produced only four reports: four were in Haw Park at Winterset Res on 2nd, followed by two south over Cortonwood on 20th, four at West End GC, Halifax on 21st and seven on Allertorpe Common on 25th. There were another four reports during February including five at Wentworth on 15th (two still present on 20th), 12 in Langdale Forest on 22nd and nine in Guisborough Forest on 28th. March produced 17 records with parties of nine at Roppa Wood, Rievaulx on 1st, at Russell’s Wood, Ryedale on 19th and at Skelton Castle on 31st. Higher counts during March comprised of 12 at Hartoft Rigg, Ryedale on 7th, 18 on Allertorpe Common on 13th, 23 in Deffer Wood on 15th and 20 at Riding Wood Res on 21st. Ten reports were received from eight locations during April, with a best of ten in conifers at Scout Dike Res on 17th. Scarce during May, with a single in Harwood Dale Forest on 1st, four at Flamborough on 11th, two at Roche Abbey on 19th and four north over Fairburn Ings on 31st the sole records. June heralded an increase, although records were confined to four dates, starting with 12 at Penny Howe on 9th, followed by a single at Crosscliffe, Scarborough on 24th and another at Spurn on 27th/28th. However a more general movement took place on 28th including: singles west at Sunk Island and south at Spurn, another at Pancho’s Pond near Spurn, a female at Bempton, seven south at Blackmoorfoot Res and 12 south over Easington. Finally 12 flew west over Southfield Res on 29th June.

Flock sizes increased during July with records on seventeen dates including several flocks of up to 35. Larger counts involved 40 at Skelton Castle, 50 at Swinsty Res, 60 at Scaling Dam on 18th and 133 heading south over Thruscross Res on 19th. The largest flocks noted during August included: 28 at Swinsty Res on 1st; 12 at Allertorpe

Common on 3rd; 68 at Langsett Res the next day and finally, 40 in the Ewden Valley from 23rd July until the year-end. Two 30-strong flocks were discovered during September at Saltburn GC on 10th and Langsett Wood on 23rd, while Timble Ings hosted 100 on 27th.

October produced a flurry of records, with Harwood Dale Forest holding 50 on 4th, 55 in Stainburn Moor Plantation during the month and 70 in the Valley of Desolation, Wharfedale on 12th. In the Harrogate District, twelve flew west over the town on 4th October and four passed west over Staveley NR the same day. Parties on the move included 25 west over Easington on 11th and 31 south-west over Hunter Hill, Halifax on 17th. Elsewhere up to 40 were recorded around Langsett and also at Timble Ings, while 41 were at Snailsden on 18th and 42 in Wykeham Forest the following day. Records then became much scarce over the last two months with records on only six dates in November. A single came in off the sea at Spurn on 2nd, 20 were in Wharnccliffe Wood on 11th November, 15 were at Ellerburn on 21st and the next day six were in Gilling Woods, Ryedale and 12 at Ogden. Langdale Forest hosted 90 on 23rd November and 40 visited were in the vicinity of Redmires Res on 26th. On 2nd December 12 appeared at Wilden Moor, Ryedale and five days later a party of ten was discovered at Ellerburn. The 8th produced 23 in Westworth Wood and the year’s last record referred to 25 in Langsett Wood on New Year’s Eve.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus* **A**

5,8,12,18,4

Scarce passage migrant; occasional rare breeder (first in 1992)

This species winters in southern Asia, but its breeding range across northern Eurasia has expanded westwards to reach Scandinavia this century.

The only records came from the Spurn area, starting with a ‘red’ singing male at the Warren during the early morning of 18th June (SE: AAH). In the autumn, two were seen on 20th September: one at Canal Hedge (PWR) and the other at the Point (PCo). Finally, a single appeared briefly with a Linnet flock in Easington on 2nd October (MFS).

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* **A**

Amber list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeder; scarce passage migrant/ winter visitor. BBS 29/211
Birds of the British and Irish race *pileata* are non-migratory, and the population decrease since the 1970s must be attributable to changes in agricultural practices. Nominate race birds from Fennoscandia (“Northern Bullfinch”) can migrate long distances and are occasional east coast migrants.

Old Moor attracted ten on 4th January and there were parties of 11 and 20 near Scarborough on 9th January, followed by ten at Beighton Marsh the next day and 12 at Broomhead Moor on 11th. A flock of 16 was along a dismantled railway at Elvington on 30th January while ten spent the month in a suburban garden in Harrogate. Monthly maxima in February included 11 at the Old Gravel Pits, Allertorpe on 14th/15th, 14 at Old Moor on 15th, 14 in Worsbrough Valley and 20 at Thrybergh CP.

Breeding was confirmed at a number of sites across the county; indicative of potential densities this included several pairs at Pugney’s CP and present at sixteen sites around Winterset during the summer. Well reported in Upper Wharfedale with reports from 60% of gardens for which bird records were submitted.

In the latter half of the year larger flocks included 18 at Old Malton on 1st October, 17 in Worsbrough Valley on 21st November and 20 on Broomhead Moor the following day. During December Thornseat Delf, Sheffield hosted 15 on 6th, 20 frequented Winterset on 11th and 30 were at Birk Brow on 13th December.

Visible migration over Snailsden logged 56 heading south during five watches between 6th September and 15th November, with peaks of 15 on 17th October and 26 on 15th November. At Winterset Res two flew west on 17th and six went south on 25th October. The following day 12 flew north-west from Spurn in three parties.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: rare breeding resident

This Palearctic species is scarce in the UK (3000 – 5000 pairs) and in long-term decline, and this also appears to be the case in the county, where it has disappeared from many traditional sites.

Coastal migrants are occasional and the first appeared at the Point, Spurn on 13th April; it was trapped and ringed on 15th April and remained in residence until 21st. Another left the Warren high to the south on 21st May and Spurn’s third moved from the Warren to Canal Hedge on 1st October and was still present the next day before heading off north. The only other coastal record related to a single trapped and ringed in Filey CP on 14th October.

Elsewhere, most records came from around Wentworth Castle Gardens and Stainborough near Barnsley. Present from 1st January through to 7th March, 11 were observed on 30th January and most were encountered in the Castle Gardens, with the exception was a party of six in Ivias Wood, Stainborough on 17th January.

At Millington Pastures up to two were present from 1st–31st January with another on 2nd March.

A single appeared in a Guisborough garden on 17th February and was again noted in the town two days later. In March one was at Roche Abbey on 8th and 14th, a single appeared at Bickley near Langdale End on 13th and another was seen intermittently in the grounds of Skelton Castle from 9th–26th. Three at Roche Abbey on 19th April included a displaying pair, while the same site hosted five on 25th April, with two remaining the following day. April's final record referred to two in a garden by Stone Creek, Sunk Island on 20th. Roche Abbey again hosted two on 25th May and another two flew over Staveley NR on 13th June.

The only record from the second half of the year was seven at Tankersley on 14th December.



Hawfinch •
John Grist

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus* A

Amber list: scarce to uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

A regular winter visitor from the Arctic and northernmost European breeding grounds.

Records were scarce early on with two at Filey from 3rd – 22nd January and up to 11 present on stubbles at Flamborough during the opening month, with ten still in residence through February. Elsewhere Cowbar hosted two on 15th February and a single visited Grimston on 23rd February. Three were at Flamborough on 7th March and a single headed north over Spurn on 21st March. Inland a single flew over Calder Wetlands on 22nd March (JHol) and finally, Flamborough attracted a single on 30th March.

The autumn's first appeared at Spurn from 17th September until the month end. Beacon Ponds attracted another on 18th and there were regular records from Flamborough after the first four on 19th September, with a best of six there the next day. Three flew south at Spurn on 21st while inland a single flew south over Oxenhope on 23rd September (DCB: HMC) and Grimston hosted a lone individual on 30th September. A single flew over Long Nab and another headed south-east over Sunk Island on 5th October, followed by lone individuals west over Hunley Hall GC on 11th October and again at Long Nab from 12th (then sporadically at the latter site until 8th November). A single headed over Timble Ings, Bradford on 13th October (AJ) and three featured regularly at Filey from 15th October to the month end. Four graced Speeton on 18th October and six were recorded regularly at Flamborough to the end of October. Spurn logged a single on several dates, while South Gare hosted an obliging individual from 22nd–25th October. Five headed south over Speeton during a 'vis mig' on 25th while similar activity at Oxenhope was rewarded with four heading north-west on 28th October (DCB: HMC). Finally another 'vis mig' at Stainburn Moor produced one south on 31st October (JBI: AMH).

November opened with one at Long Bank, Easington on 1st and five south at nearby Spurn the next day. A single frequented Grimston on 4th November and there were up to three at Filey from 5th – 20th November. Up to six were noted regularly at Flamborough throughout and another single appeared at Grimston on 28th November.

A male at Pule Hill on 15th December remained until the following day to become Halifax's first ever twitchable record (DJSu *et al.*). Back on the coast, stubble fields at Flamborough held four with a single noted at Filey on 21st December. Heavy snow in the latter half of December forced many passerines to feed on the exposed cliff top fields and 30 were subsequently discovered in setaside at Buckton on 31st December.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* A

Amber list: uncommon winter visitor; scarce inland

Breeds in the circumpolar Arctic tundra, with small numbers in the Scottish Highlands: most of our wintering birds are probably from Iceland.

January witnessed small numbers at South Gare throughout the month, with a best of 11 during the first week. Elsewhere two were on the Humber shore at Sunk Island on 1st January, a single appeared at Barmston on 3rd, 17 dropped in at Beacon Ponds on 9th January and Grimston hosted 45 and Flamborough five on 14th January. No more than two were recorded on five dates at Spurn and six appeared at Filey on 27th January. More unusually, a flock of 45 was present on Towthorpe Wold near Sledmere on 28th January.

The South Gare flock peaked at 24 on 21st February; sightings at other sites included two at Snainton on 7th February and 45 again at Grimston on 13th February. Three at Barmston on 15th February increased to six the following day, while Cowbar hosted 11 on 16th. Away from South Gare no coastal location managed to attract a lingering group in the latter half of February, with seven at Filey on 19th and two at Flamborough the following day. Inland a single overflowed South Dalton on 25th February and a lone individual was logged at Spurn on three dates. There were few records in March, with a single noted at Spurn on three dates and a single over Marine Drive, Scarborough on 1st, while April produced two on Carr Naze, Filey on 2nd and a single that headed south over Spurn on 13th.

Autumn's first lingered around the Canal Scrape area of Spurn for over a week from 14th September, with five others recorded there before the month end. Elsewhere a single at Cowbar on 15th preceded one at Flamborough from 16th September, with two present there on 18th; singles at Scarborough Castle, Scalby Manor and Filey on 17th (the latter staying until 24th September) preceded a single at South Gare on 19th and another east over Buckton the next day. Inland a single visited Bonfield Ghyll, Ryedale on 22nd September with another at Long Nab on 24th and the month's last records referred to a single that flew west over Rod Moor and three at Scalby Mills on 27th September.

October produced a maximum of 17 at Flamborough (on 4th and 13th) and low numbers were noted at Spurn and South Gare sporadically throughout. Elsewhere, a single graced Northowram, Halifax on 2nd October, followed by a party of 16 at Sunk Island on 9th October and one at Filey from 10th–24th October; five flew west over Buckton on 18th October, then low single figures at Long Nab from 22nd October and a single at Grimston on 23rd October. There were three records at inland sites during final week of October starting with a single at Deer Hill Res, Huddersfield on 26th October, another south over Oxenhope on 27th October, and finally one flew south-west during an excellent 'vis mig' at Pule Hill, Marsden on 28th October.

Low double-figures were present regularly throughout November at South Gare (a best of 34) and at Flamborough (bests of 24 on 5th November, 17 on 11th and 20 on 14th November). A single flew south-west over Silverwood Lagoon on 1st November followed by singles at Grimston on 4th and at Swales Moor, Halifax from 8th–23rd November, with two present there on 19th–21st.

A single flew south over Stainburn Moor on 9th November, followed by another at Caldene Fields, three on Rombald's Moor (one staying until 15th) and two at Levisham, Ryedale all on 11th November. A party of 12 at Long Nab increased to 40 on 13th before decreasing towards the month end, while nearby Filey attracted 14 on 15th November. There were several inland records also on 15th starting with a single south during a 'vis mig' at Snailden, three flew south-west over Blackstone Edge, Halifax and Waystone Edge, Halifax hosted another. In the latter half of November one visited RAF Fylingdales on 19th, three appeared at Coatham Marsh and six flew over Paull Holme Strays on 21st (and two remained there the next day). Southerly passage at Spurn during November included 58 on 21st and 30 on 26th November and finally Grimston hosted 11 on 28th November.

December opened with seven in East Rosedale and two in North Rosedale, seven remained at Long Nab, two visited Flamborough and 91 headed south at Spurn all on the 1st. Skinningrove hosted six on 4th December

followed by seven at Filey and two at Flamborough on 10th December. Fifty appeared at Stone Creek on 12th December, with presumably the same flock increasing to 70 at Sunk Island the next day. A single flew west over Hatfield Moors on 20th December and Filey attracted one on 26th. Thirty frequented cliff top setaside at Buckton on 31st December, while numbers built at South Gare during the month, with an impressive 134 present on New Year's Eve.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common resident and passage migrant
BBS 102/211: -15% (-22) 1995-2009, 0% (+1) 2008-09

The population has fallen since the mid-1980s and the trend remains downwards, albeit at a slower rate, with the lack of winter seed availability thought to be an important contributory factor.

Cold weather in the latter quarter induced 90 to gather at Nunthorpe during November, while 18 visited a Kirklevington garden in the middle of December. The highest breeding concentration in the north-east was recorded at Hummersea, where there were at least six breeding pairs holding territory. An ongoing survey within the forests fringing the North Yorkshire Moors illustrated that although numbers decreased on 2007, they were still significantly higher than the 1997 population when the survey was first started. Outside of the breeding season The Carrs to the west of Scarborough attracted several moderate-sized flocks including 30 at Brompton Ings and 20 at Snainton Ings on 9th January, while Allerston hosted 33 on 18th December. High Level Stewardship Schemes centred on Flamborough were undoubtedly responsible for an excellent series of records including 110 on 4th January, 70 on 14th February and 59 on 7th March. Singing males held territory on many parts of the Headland, before 14 on 19th September soon increased to 102 by 27th October. A November best at Flamborough of 149 on 19th was eclipsed by 206 on 19th December.

In the York area there were 40 at Newton-upon-Derwent on 26th January and 60 at Wilberfoss on 24th December, while in the Hull Valley a flock of 100 was at Wawne on 22nd January, North Bransholme hosted 40 on 9th March and 80 were along the Hudson Way on 23rd October. At Spurn 29 flew south between 28th February and 22nd April, with a maximum of six on 11th March. In the autumn a total of 21 flew south at Spurn between 24th September and 2nd December.

Hatfield Moors attracted 70 on 29th December and a flock of 60 was present at Hooton Roberts near Thrybergh on 8th February. Aggregations at other sites in the south-west of the county included 40 at High Hoyland on 5th January and 60 congregated at the same site during freezing conditions at the year-end. Twenty-three territorial males were present during the summer at Winterset, with 30 on 4th October comprising the largest flock there. Up to 30 congregated at Worsbrough during February, with 24 again present at the end of the year.

Near Leeds up to 50 associated with a mixed flock of finches and buntings near Skelton Lake in January. Records were only received from two sites within the Halifax area: Bradley Hall Farm held two singing males and there were four singing males in the Hartshead area. A pair that bred at Glovershaw represented the first breeding record within the Bradford area for many years. However, records continued to decrease within the Upper Wharfedale recording area, with no records from a former favoured site near Leathley, where numbers decreased from five in 2004 to two in 2006. A population continued to prosper within the Harrogate area, with seed provided at Staveley NR attracting 200 on 2nd February.



Yellowhammer 
Richard Tite

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* **A** 1,1,1,3,5
Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn
Breeds from Spain north-east through continental Europe to Scandinavia and east to western Siberia and Mongolia, and winters from Arabia west through sub-Saharan Africa.

Two spring migrants, with the first appearing by the Gorse Field at Flamborough on 17th May and remaining on the Outer Head until 20th (PC *et al.*). A probable male then dropped in at the Warren, Spurn on 10th June before heading north (AAH).

Holmes Gut, Flamborough hosted a first-winter on 23rd August that later flew off south-west (KMi). At times a very confiding individual then remained in the vicinity of Flamborough Lighthouse from 1st-9th September (PC *et al.*). Finally, a first-year was trapped in a mist net at the Warren, Spurn on 11th September; after release it flew north and wasn't relocated (PCo *et al.*).

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica* **A** 2,0,1,2,1
Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn; 60 previous records (62 birds)
Breeds from Scandinavia eastwards to Kamchatka and winters from Turkestan through to eastern China.

A first-year male discovered in a mist-net at the Warren, Spurn on 18th September was released in Clubley's Field where it showed briefly before disappearing (PS *et al.*); this represented the fifth at Spurn this decade, with relatively few occurring at other sites along the Yorkshire coast.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla* **A** 4,2,4,0,2
Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn; 63 previous records (65 birds)
Breeds from Scandinavia eastwards to the Sea of Okhotsk and winters from Turkestan to south-east Asia and China. There have been a small number of wintering records from Britain in recent years.

Flamborough Golf Course attracted an unseasonal migrant on 22nd/23rd April (PC *et al.*); the first non-autumn record since one overwintered at Shepley in early 2000.

A single initially discovered in the Canal Hedge, Spurn on 31st October was very flighty and last seen dropping into the saltmarsh off the gate (RJS *et al.*). However, it was relocated again on Canal Scrape the following day and re-appeared there on 3rd November.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: fairly common breeding resident and passage migrant.
BBS 55/211: +86% (+29) 1995-2009, -1% (+10) 2008-09

A Palearctic species which is largely resident in the county, joined by immigrants from Scandinavia in winter. The longer-term trend is very positive. After the population reached a nadir in the late 90s, leading to its red list designation, this was changed to amber in 2009 as a result of its recent recovery. The population has remained stable in the county for the last two years.

An overwintering flock around the Top Fields at Filey peaked at 65 on 4th March while just to the south 25 at Buckton on 3rd October were presumably migrants and impressively 32 ringed there on 10th October were almost certainly of similar origin. Flamborough's best counts during the early part of the year related to 62 on 4th January and 47 on 14th February. Later on there were 87 at Flamborough on 27th October, 77 on 19th November and colder weather at the year-end resulted in a displacement involving 102 on 19th December.

Tophill Low hosted 40 on 25th February and 14 pairs bred during the summer; similarly 40 roosted at Tophill on 25th October. Numbers at Spurn increased from March with a spring maximum of 25 on 3rd April; only 23 were logged heading south between 5th March and 2nd May, including a high of six on 13th March. Eight pairs attempted to breed at Spurn, although first broods struggled due to inclement weather; however, most pairs attempted to raise either two or three broods and subsequent good numbers of juveniles indicated success. Spurn's first influx of the autumn involved 27 on 16th September, while there were several counts of 50 grounded migrants during October. In total 356 flew south at Spurn between 8th September and 27th November, including bests of 33 on 11th October, 38 on 28th October and 23 on 2nd November.

In South Yorkshire Hatfield Moors attracted 30 on 22nd September, 40 on 12th October and 45 on 20th December, on which date a further 25 were at nearby Huggin Carr. Old Moor hosted 40 on 22nd February and near Sheffield 36 were trapped at Blackburn Meadows NR during the course of the year and Bolehill Flash hosted 40 on 5th December.

Fairburn Ings held 62 breeding pairs and there were 40 pairs at Swillington Ings; also near Leeds, Rodley NR attracted 30 on 23rd January and up to 40 during November/December.

The best count within the Harrogate area related to a maximum of 50 at Staveley NR between January and March and again at the year-end; at least ten singing males held territory there during the breeding season.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra* A

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding resident, not on higher ground. BBS 20/211

Breeds in open country from the Mediterranean to western China. After a massive decrease between the mid 1970s and 1980s, which is still continuing nationally (~25%, 1995–2009), this species now seems to be restricted to discrete areas of the county containing optimum habitat, but previously under-watched areas being covered by the 2007–11 Atlas will reveal a more accurate picture.

Although there were few reports on the Carrs inland of Scarborough, breeding bird surveys in two discrete areas indicated that an under-recorded population persists; four singing males were holding territory at Binnington Carr on 19th June and nine were similarly at Manor Farm, Staxton over the summer. Up to 23 gathered at Filey during January, slightly lower numbers then overwintered until a build-up started in April and peaked at 60 on 15th May.

A flock of 55 was present on land adjacent to Buckton Hall on 1st January and eleven males held territory there during the summer. During the cold snap on New Year's Eve at least 175 congregated in cliff top setaside at Buckton. Small numbers were noted on sporadic dates at nearby Flamborough, with a high of 12 on 13th February and again on 21st March. At the end of the year Flamborough attracted 23 on 28th November, rising to 45 on 21st December during the snowy conditions.

Within the York recording area a flock of 30 were at Melbourne on 4th January, followed by 65 at Wilberfoss on 26th January; at the year-end 30 were near Poppleton on 11th November. To the east of the Wolds an impressive flock at Witherwick peaked at 200 on 3rd January, while 31 at Cattleholmes on 30th January represented a site record.

In the Humberhead Levels 100 gathered at Beal Carrs on 8th February and at the year-end 20 on 11th November steadily increased to 50 on 29th December; east of Doncaster there were also 52 on the edge of Hatfield Moors on 29th November.

Records were much scarcer in the south-west of the county and north along the edge of the Pennines. In the Sheffield/Rotherham locality there were eight at Hooton Roberts on 24th January and eight at Axle Lane on 26th March (and the same number again on 18th August). A flock of 33 was discovered between Hooton Roberts and Conisbrough on 20th April; three singing males were holding territory at Loscar Common on 26th April, with another singing at nearby Harthill on 4th June.

Near Leeds singing males held territory at regular sites adjacent to Lotherton Hall and Staxton, while additional males were located singing near Scarthingwell and Sherburn-in-Elmet. A singing male on Calder Wetlands on 22nd March was not present subsequently. Further north there were no reports from the Huddersfield, Halifax and Bradford recording areas; however, there were reports from at least six sites around Harrogate, with Great Ouseburn being the most reliable, where up to six were noted throughout the year. A male held territory at Nosterfield during the summer and 14 were at nearby Lingham Lake on 8th November.



Corn Bunting ◦
Richard Tite

We've lots to shout about at our Yorkshire reserves.

Ever-changing landscapes, breathtaking
bird spectacles, and a wealth of wildlife
just in one county.

Visit

■ Old Moor ■ Fairburn Ings ■ Blacktoft Sands ■ Bempton Cliffs

No more than an hour's drive from each other.
And just over the border.... there's Saltholme,
the wildlife reserve and discovery park near
Middlesbrough and Hartlepool

Why not come and visit us?

For more information visit

www.rspb.org.uk

or call 01642 546625



a million voices for nature

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037604

Category B

Species recorded in Britain in an apparently wild state prior to 31st December 1949, but not accepted by **BOURC** as having occurred naturally since then.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* (N Africa, S Eurasia) **BDE***

Rare vagrant; feral/escapes confuse status

Some Yorkshire records of this species occur in the summer and autumn months on the Humber, especially the upper Humber area. Approximately 300 post-breeding moulting birds of presumably feral origin occur in the Netherlands at that time, and it is possible that some overshoot. Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* that leave Yorkshire to moult in the Waddenzee area of Germany may also “pick up” Ruddy Shelduck on their return later in autumn. Other birds escape from collections however.

At the beginning of the year a female accompanied Greylags at Lindley Wood Res on 6th January, another visited Thrybergh CP on 22nd February and in March a single stayed at Nosterfield NR from 19th–26th, then moved to Ripon RC on 28th and, finally, to Staveley NR the following day.

One flew north-east over Potteric Carr on 17th April and, possibly the same, headed north over Hornsea Mere and then later flew south past Spurn the same day. Scaling Dam hosted a single on 25th April. In May, one flew south past Spurn on 21st and a female appeared at Scalby Lodge Pond on 23rd.

Over the summer one visited Filey Dams on 30th June and two dropped in on the Humber at Brough Haven on 29th June and, presumably the same two, visited Whitton Sands on 12th August. Elsewhere, three flew north at Flamborough on 4th September and represented the fourth record for the Headland. In the final two months of the year, two were at Wheldrake Ings on 19th November, two at Withernwick on 15th/16th December and a lone individual accompanied the Barnacle Geese at Hornsea Mere from 27th–29th December.

Category E

Species that have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations, if any, are thought not to be self-sustaining. Category E species form no part of the British List. The range and status on the BOU category C or E list is given after the name, as some species fall into more than one category. These letters follow the publication of the BOURC’s review of Category C (*Ibis* 147: 803–819).

WHITE-FACED WHISTLING DUCK *Dendrocygna viduata* (S America) **E**

Two appeared intermittently at Scaling Dam from 3rd–11th April.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus* (Australia) **E**

Copgrove Lake hosted a single on at least 21st January and 17th March. An adult then appeared at Potteric Carr on sporadic dates throughout the year from 17th February, although was absent during the summer. A lone individual visited Micklethwaite on 20th April and was still present on 22nd May, with another single at Saltaire on 11th June. A lone individual remained in residence throughout the year at Staveley NR and resident pairs were present at Allerthorpe, Hornsea Mere and Peasholm Park (Scarborough). Two were briefly present at Fairburn Ings in January, increasing to four from the beginning of March to early June.

Breeding was confirmed at three sites: Allerthorpe (two eggs laid, but failed to hatch), Sandhill Park (Doncaster) (four cygnets) and Fairburn Ings (two small cygnets present in July). Breeding was also suspected at Hornsea Mere, where three small cygnets thought to be this species, accompanied an adult on 12th July. Elsewhere, a pair in the wildfowl collection at York University was also known to have bred.

Two were present at Fairburn Ings until September, with up to three there in October and November. Elsewhere during the second half of the year, singles were at Copgrove Lake on 12th October and Beacon Ponds (Spurn) from 7th–12th November. A single on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Riddlesden on 20th December was also thought to be responsible for sightings at Bingley.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides* (E Asia) **E**

A single was resident for most of the year at Golden Acre Park (Leeds) and a pair present since 2006 at Scaling Dam had two goslings in May. Elsewhere, a lone individual accompanied other geese at Farnham GP on 18th and 20th August and also 31st October.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus* (SE Europe & Asia) **AE**

A suspected Lesser White-fronted x White-fronted hybrid appeared at Old Moor on 10th September and remained in the area until 24th. Perhaps the same appeared at Thrybergh CP on 19th and 21st September.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus* (S Asia) **E**

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Harewood Park	1	1	2	4	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hay-a-Park GP	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Hornsea Mere	1	–		1	1		1	1	1	2	1	–
North Humber	–	–	–	–	2		–	–	–	–	–	–
Swillington Ings	–	–	–	–	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	–

A lone individual appeared at North Cave on 21st January, two dropped in at Eccup Res on 22nd February, a single was reported sporadically at Wheldrake Ings from 2nd March–17th April and another visited Orgreave Lakes on 8th March. Two flew south past Spurn on 9th May (and again on 31st May) and singles were at East Park (Hull) on 10th May and Fairburn Ings the next day. In June a single remained at Anglers CP from 2nd to 10th, two were present on Leeshaw Res on 11th, two stayed at Gouthwaite Res between 15th June and 28th July and a single graced Otley Wetlands from 23rd June to 16th July.

Elsewhere, a single appeared at Rother Valley CP on 24th June (and again on 6th August) and another visited Lingham Water on 15th August. In September singles were noted at Hay-a-Park GP and Farnham GP on 13th, North Cave on 15th, Fairburn Ings on 17th and Sands Lane GP on 23rd. A long-staying individual was in the Nosterfield NR area between 4th October and 19th December, Shepley Bridge hosted one on 8th October, and two were at Farnham GP on 2nd November. Elsewhere, up to four were present for most of the year at Eccup Res and a single remained in residence at Allerthorpe GP all year.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* (N America & Siberia) **AC2E**

During the first half of the year up to two were present at Harewood Park or Eccup Res, with occasional records from Keswick Fitts during January and February. Later in the year, a flock of 15 frequented Harewood Park on 25th September, increasing to 25 there on 22nd November and 22 still remained on 22nd December.

Hybrid

A hybrid Snow x Barnacle Goose was in the Nosterfield NR area from 28th June to the year-end.

ROSS’S GOOSE *Anser rossii* (N America) **E**

One accompanied 20 Greylags at Potteric Carr on 8th and 10th January. A single was regularly seen at Nosterfield NR, Flasks and Lingham Lakes between 14th August and 15th December.

EMPEROR GOOSE *Anser canagicus* (Alaska & NE Siberia) **E***

Hybrid

A hybrid Emperor x Barnacle Goose visited Anglers CP on 20th January and was again present intermittently from 30th August to 11th October.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* (E Greenland, Svalbard, Russia) **AC2E**

Some of these records may refer to genuine wild birds, rather than birds belonging to the feral population.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bolton-on-Swale GP	20	20	23	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	18	–
Hornsea Mere	83	4	31	–	2	–	2	1	1	78	79	81
North Humber	1	10	11	–	69	100	–	–	–	–	–	–

The true origin is often difficult to assess, although it is likely that by far the majority of records, including many within the systematic list, refer to individuals of feral origin. However, while the herd at Hornsea Mere is often assumed to be feral, they are occasionally joined by more wild cousins, as demonstrated by a single bearing

a yellow darvic inscribed ACA; present from 23rd December 2008 to 23rd January 2009 it was originally ringed as a first-year on Svalbard. In contrast one at Old Moor on 17th June had originally being ringed as an adult male on 24th July 2005, as part of the feral population near Roxton in Bedfordshire. However, it didn't hang around for long, as the following day it was 106km away at Rutland Water.

Another potential origin for many of the county's sightings is the population established at Whitton Sands on the Humber. On 21st June, 352 adults and 22 broods were present, with 78 juveniles remaining on 11th July.

In January, a single was at Bretton Lake on 7th and 16th, ten were at Keswick Fitts on 17th February and a single stayed at Old Moor from 10th – 17th March and again from 3rd – 13th April. Also in April singles were at Anglers CP from 14th to 17th and Wheldrake Ings on 19th. In May possibly the same bird visited Spurn on 26th and then appeared at North Cave on 28th and 29th. One flew south past Spurn on 6th June, when a single also visited Farnham GP, one was at Old Moor on 14th, with five present there on 17th, one of which sported a red colour ring.

A single at Ogden between 17th February and 30th April was also thought to be responsible for sightings over the summer at Cold Edge Dams. Still present there on 8th September, it then moved to Hunter Hill on 9th October, where it remained until 13th. For the remainder of the month it commuted between Cold Edge Dams and Hunter Hill, before finally settling back at Ogden in November.

In July one was at Hebden Bridge on 24th and another remained at Fairburn Ings from 1st July until 6th September. In August 16 appeared at Brough Airfield Marsh on 3rd, one visited Filey Dams on 14th and four appeared at Scaling Dam on 28th; three remained by 8th September, one having been shot. One flew west over Spurn on 2nd September and singles also visited Filey Dams the next day and Spurn again on 19th.

Hybrid

Two Barnacle x Greylag Goose hybrids were at Blacktoft Sands on 19th January and four hybrids accompanied Greylags at North Cave in October.

GREATER MAGELLAN / UPLAND GOOSE *Chloephaga picta* (S. America and Falkland Islands) E

The individual first seen the previous year re-appeared at Flasks Lake on 4th October and Nosterfield NR on 22nd.

SOUTH AFRICAN SHELDUCK *Tadorna cana* (S Africa) E

One remained in residence at Thrybergh CP all year.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata* (S America) E

Early on a female appeared at Yeadon Tarn on 2nd and 9th January, with two present on 8th February, and three frequented Burton Agnes Mere on 26th. Elsewhere, small numbers were present at Swinsty Res, with two on 18th January and singles on 22nd February and 12th April. Six were on Nafferton Mere on 25th January, whilst the year's highest count related to nine present there on 15th February, when a male was also on Elsecar Res. A lone individual visited Horbury Wyke on 11th May. There were then two at Ogden Res on 8th August, with singles still present on 21st and 28th. Two reappeared at Swinsty Res on 11th October, with three at Todmorden and five at Shepley Bridge on 12th November. There were also several reports from Bishop Burton during the year.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa* (N America) E

Two drakes were on the River Ure at Newby Hall on 22nd April and two, almost certainly the same, were on Ings Drain, Bishop Monkton on 27th July and 15th August.

MANED DUCK *Chenonetta jubata* (Australia) E

Dowley Gap hosted a single on 5th August.

CHESTNUT TEAL *Anas castanea* (S Australia) E

The drake at Yeadon Tarn from the previous year remained until 13th January. There were two at Dewsbury SW on 21st March and lone drakes visited Elland GP on 26th December and Farnham GP the next day.

WHITE CHEEKED PINTAIL *Anas bahamensis* (Caribbean, S America and Galapagos) E

One was at Pulfin & High Eske NR on 17th and 23rd October.

SPECKLED TEAL *Anas flavirostris* (S America) E

A single appeared at Burley on 8th March.

SILVER TEAL *Anas versicolor* (S America) E

A lone individual was recorded sporadically at Hornsea Mere from 28th July until 17th October.

HOODED MERGANSER *Lophodytes cucullatus* (N America) DE

A juvenile male was present at Scaling Dam from 25th August (MAB: AK *et al.*). From 1st September it relocated to the north side of the Tees, being seen at various locations (e.g. Saltholme Pools) where it remained until 3rd October, before then being seen once again on the south side of the Tees, this time at Hemlington Lake on 12th October (JR *et al.*). From 30th November the same individual had returned to the north side of the Tees, with occasional sightings into the beginning of 2010.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* E

One appeared in the Rivelin Valley on 3rd January. A single at Harewood Park on 15th March was presumably the same present at Swillington Ings from 7th–12th April and one was at Barden Scale on 13th April. Potteric Carr then hosted a single on 29th August. The presumed male in the Ripon area was again present all year and paired to a Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*.

WHITE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albicandatus* E

One at Barden on 17th March.

SAKER *Falco cherrug* E

A single reported at Skelton Lake on 14th April may have been one of the falconers' birds used for scaring gulls from the nearby tip. One wearing jesses appeared over Girlington on 27th April.

LANNER *Falco biarmicus* E

What was presumably the same individual first reported in 2007 was seen at Ravenscar on 12th April and flying over the mill towards Harwood Dale Forest on 7th May.

RED-TAILED HAWK *Buteo jamaicensis* E

Singles were on the Outer Head at Flamborough on 7th April, Thorne Moors on 2nd May, High Mill Farm, Scalby on 11th and again at Hurd's Pond, Scalby on 28th November.

VULTURE spp. *Gyps spp.*

One, thought to be the Ruppell's Vulture *G. ruppellii* reported to have escaped from Settle, was over Normanby on 24th and Knaresborough the following day. What was presumably the same was also reported as a Eurasian Griffon Vulture *G. fulvus* over Grimwith and Knaresborough on 25th July.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus* E

A single appeared at Filey Dams on 14th March.

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL *Numida meleagrides* E

Two were at Harthill Res on 17th August.

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus* E

One at Orchard Park, Hull, on 1st August. One present regularly in Kilnsea headed as far as the Warren, Spurn on 9th August.

CRIMSON ROSELLA *Platycercus elegans* E

Potteric Carr hosted a single on 17th October.

BUDGERIGAR *Melopsittacus undulates* E

One flew over Farnham GP on 11th April, followed by a single over Winterset on 31st May. One then remained in residence at Thrybergh CP from 14th June until 11th July and was again present on 12th September.

ORANGE-WINGED AMAZON PARROT *Amazona amazonica* E

A pair, believed to be of this species, remained in Cottingham churchyard from 1st January through to at least 28th December.

BLACK BULBUL *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* **E**
One of the white-headed races appeared at the Warren, Spurn on 6th July.

VILLAGE WEAVER *Ploceus cucullatus* **E**
A male was present at Spurn on 21st June.

RED-CHEEKED CORDONBLEU *Uraeginthus bengalus* **E**
A single visited the feeding station at Blacktoft Sands on 10th August.

CANARY *Serinus canaria* **E**
One was seen on the cliff top near Breil Nook, Flamborough on 1st and 4th June.

YELLOW-FRONTED CANARY/GREEN-SINGING FINCH *Serinus mozambicus* **E**
One remained in residence at Filey Dams on 4th February.

Additions and corrections to previous Reports

Addition to 1986 Report
Bluethroat – a moulting red-spotted male was caught, ringed and photographed at Keswick Fitts, north of Leeds on 22nd July.

Addition to 2004 Report
Finder of Scarborough **Alpine Swift** present from 14th March –15th April (ASc).

Addition to 2007 Report
Great White Egret – one flew west over Rother Valley CP on 29th September (PLB: MGF: KRG).

Additions to 2008 Report
Night Heron – immature flew west low over the reedbed at Blacktoft Sands on 9th September (MJP: NS: JT).

Amur Falcon – first-summer male at Tophill Low from 14th September to 15th October (JPH: DM *et al.*). A full account of this first for Britain is detailed on page 177).

Firecrest – a single accompanied a tit flock at Copgrove, near Harrogate, on 24th March.

Common Rosefinch – first-summer male singing at Coatham Marsh on 31st May (DJB).

Corrections to 2008 Report

Waxwing – the flock at Buckton on November 10th numbered 36 (not ten as published).

Sand Martin – four at Blackmoorfoot Res on 8th March published in error.

Tawny Pipit – the single at Flamborough occurred on 28th April, not 28th May as published.

Whinchat – one at Blackmoorfoot Res on 26th/27th April published in error.

Yellow-browed Warbler – One at Yeadon Cemetery on 8th/9th October published in error.

Raven – single over Blackmoorfoot Res should read 3rd September (not 3rd August). One over Blackmoorfoot Res on 13th December published in error.

Chaffinch – 43 west over Blackmoorfoot Res on 11th October published in error.

Still need it?

Yorkshire Birding

Regular articles include:

Seasonal Summary
Details of all the sightings during the quarter covered.

Rarity Finds
Read the story on all the latest rarity finds.

News
RSPB News, YNU News, BOU News as well as the topical News and Editorial.

Where to see
How to get to grips with some of the more tricky species in the County.

Mr Listers Gossip Column
Humorous tales from the Yorkshire listers world.

Yorkshire Birder Profile
A closer look at some of Yorkshire's bird watching community.

Site Guides
How to find some of the less well known birding honey pots in Yorkshire

Reviews
A look at various publications and products available to the Yorkshire birder.



And much much more.
Don't Delay – Subscribe today!

Ron Marshall

Name

Address

Postcode

Email Tel No.(s)



Please send me the next four issues of **Yorkshire Birding** starting with:

Volume ☐ Number ☐ **OR** current issue ☐ (please tick)

I enclose a cheque/postal order for **£12** (overseas **£15**) payable to: 'Yorkshire Birding'.

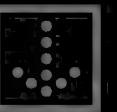
Post to: Yorkshire Birding, Bluebell, Kilnsea, East Yorkshire, HU12 0UB.



THE SIGN OF A BETTER PUB

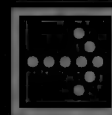
www.theakstons.co.uk

Early and late dates of migrants



Species	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Garganey*	12th March	31st October
Hobby	12th April	5th November
Little Ringed Plover	3rd March	6th September
Whimbrel	2nd April	13th October
Wood Sandpiper	18th April	19th September
Common Sandpiper	29th March	7th November
Little Tern	10th April	1st September
Black Tern	24th April	10th October
Sandwich Tern	1st April	24th October
Common Tern	4th April	14th November
Roseate Tern	16th July	7th September
Arctic Tern	10th April	1st November
Turtle Dove	20th April	12th September
Cuckoo	10th April	24th September
Swift	8th April	22nd September
Sand Martin	6th March	3rd October
Swallow	13th March	2nd November
House Martin	20th March	21st November
Tree Pipit	1st April	30th October
Yellow Wagtail	3rd April	27th October
Redstart	3rd April	28th October
Whinchat	5th April	17th October
Wheatear	14th March	31st October
Ring Ouzel*	2nd March	9th November
Grasshopper Warbler	6th April	20th September
Sedge Warbler	8th April	3rd October
Reed Warbler	10th April	26th October
Garden Warbler	11th April	15th October
Lesser Whitethroat	6th April	22nd November
Common Whitethroat	10th April	4th October
Wood Warbler	12th April	2nd September
Willow Warbler	14th March	27th October
Spotted Flycatcher	23rd April	30th September
Pied Flycatcher	12th April	22nd October

* assumed first genuine spring migrant



Amur Falcon (Tophill Low) ▶ Dave Bryan

Amur Falcon

Tophill Low

14th September 2008



Amur Falcon ◊ Dave Bryan

While overlooking Tophill Low's 'D Res' during the late afternoon on 14th September 2008, John Hirschfield identified what he believed to be an immature male Red-footed Falcon; the same falcon had been initially discovered by a visitor and reported as a Hobby. John was soon joined in the hide by Roy Lyon and Erich Hediger, and latterly, by several others who were on site due to an 'In Focus' optics event. Initial views revealed a small, blue-grey falcon, with paler underparts and an orange-red vent. In addition, the cere and legs were also orange-red. When the falcon flew it revealed a mixture of barred juvenile and plainer, adult feathers on the underside of the secondaries/primaries – this combination confirmed the age as a first-summer male. After hunting over North Marsh, it disappeared and wasn't seen again until 19th September, when relocated near South Marsh. Thereafter, it appeared on almost a daily basis until last seen on 15th October and often associated with a Hobby.

The falcon established a pattern of rarely being seen in the morning (presumably when feeding away

from the reserve), but showing much better from mid afternoon and this prompted Dave Mansell to visit on 15th October. Typically, although arriving at 1030hrs, Dave had no luck until later in the day, when he managed to obtain a couple of flight shots. Importantly, the photos illustrated pale underwing coverts and after posting the images on the net, the news was published that the long-staying individual had been re-identified as Britain's first-ever Amur Falcon! Ironically, after such a long stay it wasn't seen again; presumably the onset of cooler weather meant its favoured insect prey was harder to find and it had departed.

Critical to the identification were the areas of adult pure white underwing coverts amongst the barred juvenile feathers. The underparts were also relatively pale and the dark moustache was slightly more prominent than on the average Red-footed Falcon.

The eastern counterpart of its more familiar close relative, the Amur Falcon breeds in Mongolia, north-east China and south-east Siberia and it winters in

southern and eastern Africa. The potential for vagrancy towards Western Europe has been highlighted by a series of spring adults in Italy in the mid/late 90s and an adult male in Sweden in 2005.

Strangely an Amur Falcon had been previously recorded in Yorkshire in 1984, when an adult male was picked up stunned at the roadside in Brandsby, near Easingwold. Clearly a very unlucky individual, it had previously been ringed and released from a rehabilitation centre in France; after recuperation in Yorkshire, it was again released, only to be subsequently shot by a gamekeeper in Dumfries & Galloway in

September 1984. However, the French Avifaune Commission decided the individual was of captive origin and as a consequence it didn't enter the British List.

September 2008 proved to a classic month for eastern vagrants in Yorkshire, with two further additions to the County List: a Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler at Spurn on 14th September and a Brown Shrike at Flamborough on 24th September.

As well as an addition to the Yorkshire list, this represents the first for Britain.



Amur Falcon © Dave Bryan



Amur Falcon © Dave Mansell



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

What will you find to love in Yorkshire?



A nuthatch perhaps!

Find the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust online, follow us on Twitter, like us on facebook, come along to one of our many free events throughout the county, learn about conservation, volunteer, become a member and more; it's all happening on your doorstep.

www.ywt.org.uk

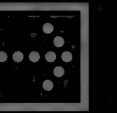
Love Yorkshire, Love Wildlife

Credit Neil Aldridge



May • Buff-breasted Sandpiper (Hatfield Moors) ▶ Ron Marshall

Gallery



January • Glaucous Gull (Bridlington) ▶ Steve Race



February • Iceland Gull (Scarborough) ▶ Steve Race



February • Black Grouse (Arkengarthdale) ▶ Marcus Conway



February • Short-eared Owl (Silverwood Colliery) ▶ Glyn Sellors



March • Firecrest (Spurn) ▶ Ian Smith



March • Snow Bunting (Bempton) ▶ Steve Race



May • Gargany (Buckton) ▶ Steve Race



May • Black-necked Grebe (Pugney's CP) ▶ Marcus Conway



May • Sand Martin (Barmston) ► Michael Flowers



May • Dotterel (Danby) ► Dave Mansell



May • Ring Ouzel (Rosedale) ► Mike Lane



May • Red-necked Grebe (Hatfield Moor) ► Glyn Sellors



June • Whiskered Tern (Fairburn Ings) ► Marcus Conway



June • Marsh Warbler (Burniston) ► Dave Mansell



July • Shags (Flamborough) ► Steve Race



July • Razorbill (Bempton) ▶ Steve Race



July • Wood Warbler (Wykeham Forest) ▶ Dave Mansell



August • Tawny Owl (Pocklington) ▶ Dick Roberts



September • Wryneck (Spurn) ▶ Ian Smith



September • Red-breasted Flycatcher (Spurn) ▶ © Graham Catley



September • Woodchat Shrike (Spurn) ▶ © Graham Catley



September • Greenish Warbler (Scarborough) ▶ Dave Mansell



September • Sanderling (Filey) ▶ Marcus Conway



October • Great Grey Shrike (Scarborough) ▶ Steve Race



October • Red-flanked Bluetail (Bempton) ▶ Graham Catley



November • Water Pipit (Flamborough) ▶ Dave Mansell

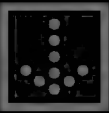


October • Kestrel (Flamborough) ▶ Marcus Conway



December • Ferruginous Duck (Pugney's CP) ▶ Ron Marshall

List of contributors



The following observers have contributed records to this report, with apologies for any omissions. Either they have submitted records directly, or have contributed to a local report used to compile the systematic list. The Editor thanks all who have submitted records.

A	J Ashton–Booth	K Barnard (KB)	I Biggin
NE Abbey	B Ashton–Wickett (BA–W)	MH Barnes	I&L Bimrose
S Abbey	IA Ashworth	SJ Barnes	A Bird
C Abbott	M Ashworth	M Barnett	AE&DM Bird
D R Abbott	S Ashworth	A Barr	SM Bird (SMB)
Mrs P Abbott	AW Askwith	P Barrett	Ja Bishop
CD Abell	B Askwith	AW Barron	P Bishop
Mrs W Adams	TC Askwith	KA Barrow	B Bishop
P Adams	B Aspin	D Bartlett	Miss R Black
R Adams	R Atkin (RA_t)	K Bartlett	B Blackburn
NW Addey (NWA)	Ms J Atkins	S Barton	J Blacker (JBI)
J Adlard	P Atkins	C Barwick	L Blackett
R Ahmed	J. Atkinson	S&Y Barwick	D&M Blackmore
C&J Alder	JE Atkinson (JEA)	G Batten	S Blacksmith
M Aldridge	M&D Atkinson	A Baverstock	RP Blagden
PJ Alker	S&J Auker	JB Baxter	E Blake
D Allen	L Aukland	JM Bayldon (JMB)	CJ Blakeley
J Allen	N Aukland	BJ Bayley	M Bland (MBI)
Ra Allen	I Austin (IA)	R Bays	MA Blick (MAB)
D Allenby	ML Ayres	B Beach	M Bloomfield
P Allenby	R Ayson	B Beaumont	Miss BJ Boize
Mrs P Allenby		JA Beaumont (JAB)	RJ Boland
R Allinson	B	JS Beaumont	JH Bolton
K Allison	D Bacon	P&WA Beaumont	PJ Bolton
AM Allport	W Baggerly	D Beck	P& S Bone (P&SB)
D&J Alred	P Bagguley	M Beck	J Bonner
P Alvey	JM Baildon	E Beedham	R Boon
A Amery (AA)	B Bailey	DV Beeken	AJ Booth (AJB)
CE Andrassey (CEA)	D Bailey	MA Beevers	R Booth
I Andrews	Mrs E Bailey	A Belk	K Borman
RH Appleby (RHA)	S Bailey	A&C Bell	A Bostock
I Appleton	RA Baines (RAB)	AR Bell	Ms I Boston
A Archer	RJ Baines	DR Bell	A Botterill
MG Archer	C&A Baker	F Bell	RW Bovill
B Armitage	J Baker	J&J Bell	K Bower
M Armitage	R Baker (RB)	M Bell	D Bowes
G Armitt (GA)	LC Ball	R Bellwood	N&A Bowland
J Armstrong	DJ Bamforth	R Beltoul	PK Bowman
R Arundale	GR Bannister	DJ Bennett	M Boyd
R Arundle	K Bannister	E Bennett	K Boyer
S Ashdown	Mrs C Barber	GR Bennett	B Boyle
D Ashforth	L&M Bardwell	A&D Benson	DP Boyle
M Ashforth	C Barker	R Berrington	D Brabbs
D Ashton	DC Barker (DCB)	J Berry	A Bradford
P Ashton	J Barker	K Bewton	CG Bradshaw (CGB)
S Ashton	JM Barker	C Bielby (CBi)	C&L Braham

D Branch
SJ Branch
P&B Bray
H&K Brazier
D Brear
O Brear
S Brebner (SBr)
M Brew
MC Brew
C Brewer
Ca Brewer
D W Brierley
D Briggs
G Briggs
P Briggs
S Briggs (SBri)
PJ Briglin
DJ Britton (DJB)
P Broadhead
C Brogdale
M Bromley
R Bromley
A Brooke
GL Brooke
I Brookes
D Brooks
P Brothers
RK Broughton
CR Brown
JDH Brown
K Brown
MF Brown
Ms R Brown
P Brown
PL Brown (PLB)
R Brown (RBr)
Ru Brown
Ms L Bruce
D&S Bryan
R Buchannon
K Bull
K Bullimore
A Bunting
P Burke
T&J Burkinshaw
A Burnham
J Burnham
A Burns
W Burns
J Burton
RJ Butcher (RJB)
A&P Butler
N Butler
S Butler
M Butt
D Butterfield

C Butterfield
R Butterfield
E Butterwick
R Butterworth
DJ Buttle
J Buxton
B Byatt
DM Bye
DM Bye
RJ Bye
S Byers
D Bywater
C
MP Calvert
R Campbell
JD Cant
PJ Carlton
A Carmichael
BM Carr
F Carr
G Carr
GM Carr
J Carr (JCa)
M Carr
I Carrick
M Carroll (MCa)
MJ Carroll
N Carter (NC)
C Carter
S Carter
P Casey
A Cawthrow
M Chadwick
AJ Chafer
EO Chafer
B Chambers
P Chambers
TC Chantry
M Chapman
Ms G Chapman
RE Chapman
R Charles
P Charlton
PJ Charlton
TD Charlton (TDC)
J Charnock
P Chicken
S&H Chippendale
K Ckarkson
J Clapham
C Clark
P Clark (PCI)
C&F Clarke
J Clarke
P Clarke

R Clarke (RC)
S Clarke
K Clarkson
GM Clay
J Clay
M Clay (MCl)
B&P Clegg
W Clements
M&J Clerk
S Clifton
EW Clubley
M Coates (MC)
L Coayes
M Cobley
S Cochrane (SC)
B Cockerill
A Cockroft
B Coddington
J Coish
J Colclough
NM Collett
I Colley
P Colley
M Collins
P Collins (PCo)
T Collins
M&S Collinson
M Collinson
T Collinson
R Comley
S Coneron
B Coneyworth
M Constantine
M Conway
S Cook
JM Cook
K Cook
M Cook
P&L Cook
PJ Cook
S Cook
TR Cook
Ms S Cooke
NM Cooke
JR Cookson
J Cooper (JC)
A Cooper
J Cooper
M Cooper
J Cope
TI Corbett (TIC)
M&J Corcoran
M Corner (MCor)
A Corscadden
G Costello
DW Cottee
W Coulthard
R Council
B Coursey
RW Coursey
C&R Court
IR Court
D Coverdale
M Coverdale (MCo)
V Cowell
T Cowley
C Cox
J Cox
M Cox
T Cox
M Craggs
T Crampton
K&S Crean
AJ Crease
JC Crebbin
HM Creber (HMC)
A Credland
CG Critchley
J Crooks
R Crosby
N Cross
R Crossley
A Croucher
AF Crowther
J Crowther
PA Crowther
TP Crowther
RJ Croxton
M Cunningham
P Cunningham (PC)
M Curtis
WF Curtis
R Curtis
K&S Cuthbert
B Cuttell
M Cutting
D
JE Dale
JM Dale
R Dale
BF Damper
A Dancy
K D'Arcy
J Davidson
J&TG Davies (J&TGD)
R Davies
S Davies
St Davies
J Davis
AJC Dawson
B Dawson

N Dawson	M Duggleby	GH Featherstone
R Dawson	J Dukes	B Fendley (BF)
NC Dawtrey	NP Dummigan	MG Fenner (MGF)
GA Dayes (GAD)	PJ Dunn (PJD)	J Ferguson,
A. Dearman	MR Durham	J Fermer
LJ Degnan (LJD)	K Dutheridge (KD)	H&J Ferraby
A Deighton	K Dutton	R Findlay–Robinson
P Delaloye	JB Dye	H Firman
G Denison	Mrs C Dye	A Firth
T Denney	M Dyson	K Fisher
T&J Denney	R Dyson	M Fisher
Miss H Dennison		R Fisher
K Denny	E	CH Fletcher
S Denny (SD)	R Eades	P Fletcher
ML Denton (MLD)	C Earl	MR Fletcher
AB Devitt	M Earle	P Fletcher
B Devitt	Ms M Earle	J Flood (JF)
L Dewdney	D Edwards	L Flowers
J Dews	EY Edwards	M Flowers
P Dews	M Edwards	MJ Flowers
KE Dickinson	R Edwards	C Flynn
P Didsbury	S Edwards	CH Flynn
J Dillon	WD Elders	G Foggitt
AS Disley	S Ellement	A Ford
CR Dixon	SC Elliot	B Ford
D Dixon	S Elliott	D Ford
J Dixon (JDi)	T&J Elliott	W Forrest
T Dixon	J Elliott,	A Forsyth,
Te Dixon (TeD)	G Ellis	K Foston
GE Dobbs (GED)	Y Elvin	K Foundation
JP Dobinson (JPD)	E Ely	CAP Fowles
C Dodsworth (CD)	WA Ely	R Fowling
D Dodsworth	E Emmerson	M Francis (MF)
P Doherty	B Emson	T Francis (TF)
T Dolan (TD)	Na Estrada	PR French
M Dough	JH Evans	AM&GA Frith
M Douglas	KL Evans	S Frost
T Douglas (TDo)	LGR Evans (LGRE)	Ms S Frost
P Dove	M Evans	RJ Fuller
H Doveston	A Evers	S Furber (SF)
M Doveston	R Evison (RE)	J Furnell
Ms J Dowd	A Ewart	L Furness
S Downing	S Exley (SE)	
F Drake		G
SE Drake	F	D Gains
A Draper	G Facer	J Gallagher
S Draper	Ms L Facer	P Gammage
T Draper	V Fairbrother	P Gardham
R Dresser	C Fairchild	C Garner
Mrs J Drew	DG Fairweather	DM Garner
R Drew (RD)	M Fanshawe	M Garner
T Drew	N Fearnley	MGH Garnett
PG Duckworth	CM Fearnley	P Garrity
S Duckworth (SDu)	M&A Fearon	J Gatenby
W Dudhill	C Featherstone	Ms E Gathercole
Mrs IM Duffey	G Featherstone (GF)	E Gathercole,

C Gaughan
D Gaunt (DG)
R Gauter
AJ Gear
N Genn (NG)
S Gennard
G&I Gent
S Gibbon
N Gibbons
AJ Gibson (AJG)
S Gibson
D Gifford,
A Gilbert
P Giles
LR Gill
M Gill
L Gillard
L&D Gillard
C Gillings
D Gilroy
I Graves
J Glendinning
D Goate
C Gomersall
C Gomersall
J Goodhart
D Goodwin
S Goodwin
SJ Goodwin
M Gordon
PD Goriup
C Gorman
AG Gough (AGG)
T Gough
KR Gould (KRG)
A Grace
SR Graham (SRG)
C Graham
A Grainger
G Grainger
K Grainger
Mrs RA Grainger
J Gramauskas
A Gramshaw
G Granger
Miss G Granger
S Gray (SG)
A Grayson
J Grayson
P Grba
R Greasley (RG)
I Greaves
P Greaves
PK Greaves
G Green
J Green

K Green
S Green (SGr)
CV Greenley (CVG)
I Greenwood
Ca Gretton
A Grieve
PR Griffin
Ge Griffith
Mrs B Griffith
S Griffiths
R Grillo
J&P Grimmett
M Grindle
J Grist (JG)
T Grose
T Guest
T&J Guild
S Guymer
S Gwilliam (SGw)
H
R&B Haigh
G Haigh
G&MG Hall
N Hallas
D Halliday
J Halliday
JC Halliday
M Hamflett
J Hamilton
R Hampshire
AM Hanby (AMH)
CP Hansell
S Harber
RE Harbird
D Hardacre
J Hardacre
D Harding
Mrs ME Harman
RD Harman (RDHa)
J Harriman
R Harrington
C Harris (CHa)
WD Harris
R Harris
C Harrison
Jaq Harrison
M Harrop
N Hart (NH)
R&C Hart
R Harvey
J Harwood (JH)
S Hathaway
A Hatton
N&P Hawkes
S Hay

M Hayes
M Hayes
KJ Hayhow
Mrs A Hayhow
I Hedge
EJ Hediger (EJH)
A Heeley
J Helliwell
S Helm,
M Henshaw
D Heptinstall
N Heptinstall
S Hepton
D Herringshaw
W Hesketh
J Hesslewood
B&P Hewitt
J Hewitt (JHe)
S Hey (SH)
M Hibbert
J Higgins
Jo Higgins
P Higgins
I Higginson
C Higson
A Hill (AHi)
B Hill (BH)
Ms S Hill
RD Hill (RDH)
RDR Hill
C Hine
S Hiner
H Hipperson
JP Hirschfield (JPH)
AD Hirst
DJ Hirst
EV Hirst
R Hirst
D Hobson
DG Hobson (DGH)
Ly Hobson
R Hobson
T Hobson
TL Hobson
MG Hodges
J Hodgkins (JHod)
A Hodgkinson
A Hodgson
M Hodgson
J Hodson
R Holden
J Holliday (JHol)
D Holloway
A Holmes
BM Holmes
G Holmes (GH)

A Hood (AHo)
CA Hopper
RN Hopper (RNH)
R Hopson
J Hornbuckle
P Hornby
C Horne (CH)
C Horner
M Horner
S Horner
T&V Horsfall
C Horton
J Horton
GM Horwood
N Houldershaw
T Houseman
D Howard
Mr&Mrs I Howard
D&R Howson
A Hudson
T–M Hudson
SL Hull
J Hume
J Hunt
DA Hunter (DAH)
DI Hunton (DIH)
A Hurst (AHu)
Ca Hurst
CD Hurst
D Hursthouse (DH)
K Hutchinson
KS Hutchinson
T Hutchinson (TH)
AA Hutt (AAH)
M Huxlow
A Huyton (AHu)
I
L Ingles
D Ingram
F Ipson
DD Ireland
JD Ireland
JR Irving
PV Irving (PVI)
T Isherwood (TI)
DS&VA Ives
J Ives
L Ives
PW Izzard
J
G Jackson
J Jackson
K Jackson
M Jackson

P Jackson
S Jackson (SJa)
W Jackson
G James
HT James
J James
D Jarrold
M Jarvis
J Jemmison
J Jenkins
K Jennings
R Jennings
N Jessop
AF Johnson (AFJ)
Al Johnson
An Johnson
CG Johnson
D Johnson
S Johnson
S Johnstone
A Jones
B Jones
C Jones
NA Jones
O Jones
E Jones
A Jowett (AJ)
S Jump (SJ)
K
Z Karpowicz
R Kay
G Kaye (GK)
I Keeton
A&A Kelly
Mr&Mrs A Kelly
T Kemp
I Kennedy
F Kennington
JE Kenward
R Kenyon
S Kenyon
A Kershaw
G Kershaw
N Kerwin
T Kettle
T Keuchel
D&H Kidman
L Kilby
Ly Kilby
M Kileen (MK)
B Kilgallon,
A King
C King
CJ King
LJ King

LS King	RE Leighton (REL)
P&S King	A Leonard
PC King	A&C Leonard
J Kingsland	CL Leonard
IR Kingsnorth	P Leonard
AMG Kinnear	P&CLL Leonard
J Kinnerman	R Lewis
J Kirby	D WLidster
Ms JA Kirby	G Light
F Kirk	J Light
P Kirk	C Lilley
M Kirkby,	SG Lilley
J Kirkman	K&P Limb
S Kitcher	P Linger
R Knock	GM Linley
K Knowles	M Linnington
T Kohler	JK Lister
M Kramer	K Lister
A Kraus (AK)	S Lister
	SM Lister
L	D Little
R Lally	D Littleproud
T Lally	Mrs BD Littlewood
B Lamb	A&C Lloyd
Ms S Lamb	C Lloyd
G Lambert	P Lockwood
G Lambert,	D Lomas
L Lancaster	A Lonsdale
T Lane	I Lonsdale
Mrs M Larner	M Lonsdale
P Larner	P Lonsdale
PA Lassey (PAL)	B Lound
J Laughton	A Lowe
T Laughton	D Lowe
P Laurence (PL)	RJ Lowe
J Law	T Lowe
M&M Lawrence	R Lowndes
Mrs D Lawson	S Luck
T Lawson	J Lunn
J Lawton	K Lyon
S Lawton	R Lyon (RL)
G Lax	Mrs S Lyth
J Laycock	
SR Laycock	M
J Layden	A MacNicoll
GY Leach	A MacNicoll
I Leach	T Mahoney
E Leadbetter	N Major
JB Leason	T Malkin
D&M Leather	A Malley (AMa)
G Lee	NW Mallinson
L Lee	Mrs E Maltby
B Leecy	L Mander
G Leeming	G Mann
P Leeming	S Mann
D Lefever	D Mansell (DM)

R Mantaj
P March
D Marchant
N Marriner
JL Marriott
Mr&Mrs R&S Marriott
Mrs Y Marsh
P Marsh
A Marshall (AM)
D Marshall (DMa)
DC Marshall
I Marshall (IM)
RJ Marshall
D Martin
J Martin (JMa)
J&P Martin
JI Martin (JIM)
Pa Martin
Pe Martin
S Martin
T Martin
P&P Maske
J Mason
D Mason
I Massey
JR Mather
AJ Mattinson (AJM)
J Maxwell
A&C Mayman
D McAleavy
J McCaffrey
T McCormick
M McDonald
J McEachen
T McEvoy (TMc)
CR McKay
R McKellican
J McLean
J McLoughlin
M McNaghten (MMc)
CD Measures
MC Melchoir
P Mella
T Melling
Ms C Mellor
N Melsom
N Melsom,
P Meridith
MG Metcalfe (MGM)
A Mettam
R Mew (RM)
DR Middleton
J Middleton (JM)
L Middleton
P Middleton (PM)
M Middlewood

Ru Midgley
S Miles
A Miller
G Miller
M Miller
J&T Millett
K Milsom (KMi)
TH Minskip (THM)
R Mitchell
S Mitchie
RV Moat
FX Moffatt (FXM)
K Moir
R&L Mole
DA Money (DAM)
M Moore
N&M Moore
Dr N Moran
Mrs EN Moran
NJ Moran
N Moran,
BM Morfitt
A Morgan
J Morgan
S Morgan
J&M Morley
PR Morris (PRM)
PW Morris
M Morrison
J Morritt (JMo)
D&P Moss
P Moss
P Mountain
PL Mountain
J Mountford
D Muir
Mrs B Mullett
S Mulligan
T Mulsom
R Mumford,
Mrs B Murphy
P Murphy
SG Murphy
A Murray
FAE Murray
M Murray
Mrs L Murray
Dr A Musgrove
P Myers
N
P Nash
S Nash (SNa)
S Naylor
MG Neal
S Nelson (SN)

D Nesham
I Nethercote
M Nethercote
AC Neville-Smith
JA Newbould
JM Newman
J Newsome
P Newton
R Nichols
I Nicholson (IN)
B Nield
L Nixon (LN)
K Noble
G Norman
A Norris (AN)
J Northage
A Nunn
AD Nunn
A Nuthall (ANu)
O
Mrs JR Oakland
MA Oates
GD O’Callaghan
R O’Connor
S Ogilvy
H Old (HO)
P Oldham
G Oliver
N Oliver
J Olley
J O’Malley
A O’Neill
T O’Neill
N Orchard
A&B Osbourne
DM Owen (DMO)
H Owen
MG Oxlade
MG Oxlade
Va Oxley
P
A Page
C&J Palfree
JK Palliser
G Palmer
Mr&Mrs M Palmer
D Parker
EC Parker (ECP)
N&E Parker
R Parker
T Parker
D Parkes
S Parkes
D&B Parkin

LJ Parkin
PD&JB Parkin
J Parkinson
RT Parrish (RTP)
V Parslow
N Parton
J Partridge
S Pashby
P Patrick
J Payne
D.M. Pearce
DM Pearce
Dr AJ Pearman
P Pearsall
PH Pearsall
GS Pearson
JM Pearson
M Pearson
N Pearson (NPe)
P Pearson
R&D Peel
DH Pennington
D Pennington
J Pennock
P Pennock
AS Pepper
BM Pepper (BMP)
DJ Perray
M Perry (MPe)
R Pethen
E Petty
J Pewtress
M Phelan
D Pickering
DR Pickering (DRP)
J&R Pickering
K Pickering
N Pickering (NP)
G Picton
T Piggott
MJ Pilsworth (MJP)
JM Pinder
B&P Pinning
D Piper
P Piringer (PP)
J Plant
R Platts
DM Pogson (DMP)
D Pointon
J Poland
M Pollard,
JA Pollintine
J Pomroy (JP)
R Pope
N&S Popham
A Porter

NR Porter
R Porter
JD Postlethwaite
C Pottage
A Powell
D Poyser
JR Prentice
J Preshaw
DJ Prest
NA Preston (NAP)
J Price
B Priest
MV Priestley
P Pringer
D Proctor (DPr)
RH Proctor (RHP)
N Puckrin
P Purvis
Q
H Quarterman
R
S Rabie
S Race (SRa)
S Radcliffe
C Ralston
M Randall
J Raven
J Read
B Reavey
J Redman
RA Reece
A Reed
PJ Reed
P Reed
MN Reeder (MNR)
J Reeman
J Regan (JR)
P Reid
Bry Reidy
SC Renouf
P Reynolds
J Rhoades
T Rhodes (TR)
W Rich
B Richards (BR)
C Richards
A Richardson
D Richardson
J Richardson
R&A Richardson
T Richardson
D Richardson
G Rickers
F Ridley

P Ridsdale
He Rigg
Mo Rigg
P Rigg
P&M Riley
Mrs JR Riley
N Roach
A Roadhouse (AR)
B Roberts
C&I Roberts
D Roberts
M Roberts (MR)
A Robertshaw
A Robin
CC Robinson (CCR)
I Robinson (IR)
I&J Robinson
L Robinson
M&P Robinson
Ma Robinson (MRo)
Mi Robinson
N Robinson
P Robson
D Roddis
S Roddis
SJ Roddis
P Roe
S Roebuck
Al Rogers
T Rogers
Mrs N Rogers
SM Root
AJ Ross
I Ross
J Ross
R Ross
N Rossiter,
K Rotherham
M Rotherham
S Routledge
PC Rowarth (PCR)
MD Rowbottom (MDR)
S Roxby
G Royston
D Ruffles
R&P Rumbold
M Rushton
Ms V Rushworth
Dr JH Russell
T Ryan
S
J Sadler
J Sadler
Miss E Salf
Mr Salf

Mrs L Salf
S Samworth
CJ Sandbach
J Sanders
Mrs E Sanders
J Sanderson (JS)
MW Sanderson
P Sands
JM Saville (JMS)
A&C Sawbridge
M Saxelby (MSa)
A Saywell
P Scales
R Scally
DJ Scanlan
E Scarfe
E&P Scarfe
EV Scarfe
R Schofield (RSch)
C Scholefield
A Scott (ASc)
GW Scott
HJ&B Scott
I Scott
LJ Scott
P Scott
PL Scott
R Scott
RJ Scott (RJSc)
T Scott (TS)
A Scott
R Scullion
A Scutt
P Seaman
A Sears
M Sears
R Sears
H&K Searstone
JE Seeviour
G Sellers
G Sellors
I Senior
NP Senior
K Shackleton
A Shadrack
M Sharp
K Sharpe
M Sharpe
G Sharples
EO Shaw
G Shaw
J Shaw
S Shay
J Sheldon
K Shemwell
Mrs K Shemwell

G Shentall
Mrs I Shentall
A Shepherd
M Shepherd
J Sherwin
M Sherwin
C Shields
D Shields
J Shields
G Shilton
G Short,
N Shorrock (NS)
GB Silver
T&V Silvester
D Simmonite
J Simms
A Simpson
B Simpson
D Simpson
DJ Simpson
DW Simpson
SP Singleton (SPS)
Dr T Sinnott
CG Slack
G Slack (GSI)
GM&N Slack
JK Slack
W Slack
RS Slack (RSS)
AD Slade
P Slade
C Slater
C Slator
M&K Slingsby
Jo Sliwinski
M Smales
MA Smethurst
AHV Smith
D Smith
DM Smith
G&A Smith
GM Smith
I Smith (IS)
J Smith
JB Smith
JN Smith
K Smith (KS)
M Smith
P Smith (PS)
PJW Smith
Mrs G Smith
JR Smithson
B Smithson
BK Smithson
M Smithson
R Smithson (RSm)

D Smyth
M Snook
AJ Snowden
J Snowdon
C Sollitt
L Sollitt
LJ Sollitt
J&A Soper
T Spall
GA Speck
B&P Speed
D Speed
GJ Speight (GJS)
BR Spence
BW Spence
B Spencer
J Spencer
JA Spencer (JAS)
S Spick
M Spradbery
RJ Sprakes (RJSp)
S Spray
M Spurr
LD Sread
P Srewart
D Stables
M Standley
DJ Standring
M Stanley
J Stanton
D Starkey (DS)
L Stead
M Stead
BA Stephenson
CR Stephenson
D Stephenson
G Stephenson
P Stephenson
R Stephenson (RS)
Mrs HR Sterne
N Stewart
Jo Stocks
M Stone
M&F Stones
A Stonier (AS)
S Stonier
J Storry
A Stow
AJ Stoyle (AJS)
MF Stoyle (MFS)
MG Stoyle
A Strangeway
R Strangeway
CC Straw
J Street
G Stride

S Summer
A Summersgill
B Sumner
C Sutcliffe
DJ Sutcliffe (DJSu)
J Sutcliffe
P Sutcliffe
R Sutherland
K Sutton
RJ Swales (RJS)
P Swallow
Mr&Mrs D&E Swift
DH Sykes
J Sykes
S Sykes
Va Sykes

T
N Tasker
D Tattersley (DTa)
MK Taunton (MKT)
Miss J Tavener
A Taylor
B Taylor
Ca Taylor
D Taylor
G Taylor
GC Taylor (GCT)
M Taylor
J Taylor
M&L Taylor
N Taylor
R Taylor
RJ Taylor
SA Taylor
W Taylor
C Teal
SG Tebbutt
J Telford (JT)
R Theakston
JA Thickett
Mrs JR Thickett
CC Thomas (CCT)
G Thomas
JM Thomas
M Thomas (MT)
A Thompson
C Thompson
FJ Thompson
J Thompson
JB Thompson
M Thompson
MA Thompson
W Thompson
D Thornley
JA Thornton

S Thornton
P Thorpe
R Thorpe
RT Thorpe (RTT)
B&P Threllfall
D Thurlow
M Timms
D Tinker
C&P Tinson (C&PT)
M Tiplady
D Tipping
R Tite
AM&GA Todd
G Todd
P Tomlinson
ADW Tongue (ADWT)
J&F Topham (J&FT)
JL Topham
Mr&Mrs R&G Traves
F Traynor
I&R Traynor
PT Treloar (PTT)
A Tremethick
D Troop
J Troughton
K Trout
K Trow
P Trueblood
D Tucker
T Tudor
G Tulloch
K Tupholme
Mrs S Tupholme
B&E Turnbull
JK Turnbull
P Turnbull
D Turner
D&B Turner
J Turner
S Turner
V Turner
JM Turton (JMT)
G Tveit
R Twigg
B&M Twist
C Tyler

U
M Underwood
S Underwood
A Urquhart
J Uttley

V
B Van der Ven
T Vaughan (TV)

D Venus
K Venus
N Vernon
B Vickers
SE Vickers
H Vilkaitis
EC Vincent
IR Vine
I Vine (IV)

W
DM Waddington (DMW)
T Wade
G Wadsworth
S Wadsworth
MJ Wainman
BP Wainwright (BPW)
SD Waite
M Walker
A Walker
B Walker (BWa)
ID Walker
J Walker
K Walker
Ms JA Walker
RV Walker
T Walker
DIM Wallace
E Wallis
G Walsh
M Walsh
L Walton,
D Warburton
A Ward
D Ward
J Ward (JW)
L Wardell,
F Wardman
D Ware
P Warren (PW)
S Warrilow
B Warrington
SP&JC Warwick
J Wass (JWa)
DRJ Watkins
J Watkins
GV Watola
AD Watson
G Watson
N Watson
T Watson
P Watson
R Watson (RW)
D Waudby
CJ Webb
M Weber

I Webster
T Webster
M Weir
R Welburn
J Welburn
G Welch
J Welford (JWe)
MC Wells
PS Wells
R Welton
J Westmorland
L Westmorland
T Weston
T Wheeler
PA Wheway
JR White
Li White
S White
A Whitehead
HJ&A Whitehead
IC Whitehouse (ICW)
N Whitehouse
S Whitehouse
A Whitehouse
D Whiteley
A Whittaker
B Whittaker
K Whittaker
J Whittle
S Whittle
M Whitwam
M Wiggins
Ti Wigglesworth
N Wightman
S Wignill (SW)
T Wild (TW)
C Wiley
A&N Wilkinson
C Wilkinson (CW)
J Wilkinson
N Wilkinson
JB Willcock
P Willey
B Williams
D Williams (DWi)
DJ Williams
RDR Williams
MC Williams
A Williamson
R Willison
A Willocks
Mr&Mrs PJ&S Willoughby
B Wilson
BE Wilson
C Wilson
D Wilson

J Wilson (JWil)
C Winn
J Wint (JWi)
P Winter
S Witty
G Wolfenden
B Wood
B&S Wood
D Wood
P Wood
DH Woodmansey
D Woodruff
D Woods
M Woolston
I Wordsworth
PB Wordsworth
SP Worwood (SPW)
R Woulds
D Wozencroft (DWo)
J Wozencroft (JWo)
J Wragg
P Wragg (PWr)
T Wray
Tr Wrigglesworth
K Wright
D Wright
G&W Wright
Mrs EM Wright
R Wright (RWr)

X
A Xherija

Y
LJ Young
W Younis

Z
A Zabukas
A Ziemacki



Observers who have first-hand knowledge of rare breeding birds within the county are requested to submit their evidence to the appropriate Vice-County Recorder or the Report Editor, to be forwarded to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. The RBBP was formed in 1972 by representatives of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nature Conservancy Council and *British Birds*. The present Panel is made up of representatives of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, RSPB, BTO, and the Association of County Report Editors, together with two independent members and a Secretary. The Panel's prime function is to act as a secure depository of sensitive information on the breeding of rare birds in Britain.

Information is required for most species on Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and other rare species dealt with by the Panel, including all the scarcer non-native breeding species, including feral geese, Black Swan, Muscovy Duck, Parakeets *etc*. Information is requested on breeding or potential breeding records of all of these species in three categories: **possible, probable, proved**.

Definitions of these categories are on the recording forms.

Species for which information is required that are known to have bred, or attempted to breed, in recent years in Yorkshire are listed below.

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| * Gadwall | * Hobby | * Wood Lark |
| Pintail | * Quail | Bluethroat |
| Garganey | Water Rail | Black Redstart |
| Shoveler | Spotted Crake | Fieldfare |
| * Common Pochard | Corn Crake | Cetti's Warbler |
| Black-necked Grebe | Avocet | Marsh Warbler |
| Bittern | * Little Ringed Plover | Firecrest |
| Honey-buzzard | Black-tailed Godwit | * Bearded Tit |
| Marsh Harrier | Mediterranean Gull | Golden Oriole |
| * Hen Harrier | Little Gull | Parrot Crossbill |
| Montagu's Harrier | Roseate Tern | Hawfinch |
| * Northern Goshawk | * Little Tern | * Common Rosefinch |
| | Eagle Owl | |

In the case of the Less Scarce Species (marked * above), the VC Recorder prepares a summary each year for the Panel.

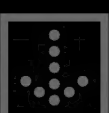
For the Rare Species, recording forms are completed detailing the status, success and site of each pair.

The system used by the Panel for indicating geographical locations in their report is done on a regional basis with Yorkshire being part of "England North". In some instances the county will be named but should the observer request the omission of "Yorkshire" the Panel will respect this with only the region being named. A full list of the species considered by the Panel appeared in *British Birds* 81: p102 – 103, and is on the RBBP website.

Observers may, if they wish, submit records directly to the Panel Secretary, but the normal procedure is to send them in the first instance to the relevant County Recorder who will forward them to the Panel.

Panel report forms are available from the Report Editor, Vice-County recorders or direct from the RBBP by post or from the RBBP website.

Write to:
The Secretary, (Mark Holling)
Rare Breeding Birds Panel,
The Old Orchard, Grange Road, North Berwick,
East Lothian. EH39 4QT
Phone: 01620 894037
e-mail: secretary@rbbp.org.uk
website: www.rbbp.org.uk



Detailed site specific information was received for the following locations, including local society/club reports where indicated below; readers requiring additional information on those areas are advised to consult the relevant club recorder/report.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Barnsley Bird Report 2009 | North Yorks Forest Bird Study Group 2009 |
| Beal Carrs 2009 | Old Moor 2009 |
| Birdguides | Potteric Carr 2009 |
| Birdtrack | Pugney's CP 2009 |
| Bradford Bird Report 2009 | Rodley NR 2009 Bird Report |
| British Trust for Ornithology | Rotherham 2009 Bird Report |
| Buckton 2009 | RSPB |
| Cleveland 2009 Bird Report | Ryedale 2009 Bird Report |
| Edderthorpe Flash 2009 Bird Report | Saltmarshe Delph 2009 Bird Report |
| Fairburn Ings 2009 Bird Report | Scarborough 2009 Bird Report |
| Filey 2009 Bird Report | Sheffield 2009 Bird Report |
| Flamborough 2009 Bird Report | Sorby Natural History Society 2009 |
| Fylingdales 2009 Bird Report | Southfield & Went Ings 2009 Bird Report |
| Grimston 2009 | Spurn Wildlife 2009 Report |
| Halifax 2009 Bird Report | Swillington Ings 2009 Bird Report |
| Harrogate & District 2009 Bird Report | Thorne Moors 2009 Bird Report |
| Hatfield Moors 2009 | Upper Wharfedale 2009 Bird Report |
| Huddersfield 2009 | Winterset 2009 |
| Hull Valley Wildlife Group 2009 | York 2009 |
| Kelk 2009 | Yorkshire Birding 2009 |
| Leeds 2009 Bird Report | Yorkshire Dales National Park |
| Malham Tarn 2009 Bird Report | Yorkshire Red Kite Newsletter 2009 |
| North Cave Wetlands 2009 | Yorkshire Wildlife Trust - Breeding Bird Survey |

We are as pleased to hear about the first Swallow as you are to see one.



Sending us your bird records helps us to monitor the changing fortunes of Britain's birds both now and in years to come.

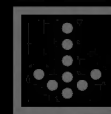
Remembering us in your Will ensures that we'll continue to be at the heart of bird research and conservation in the future.



BTO
Looking out for birds

The Nunnery Thetford Norfolk
IP24 2PU
T: 01842 750050
E: info@bto.org
www.bto.org

Photo: Anne Cotton
Registered Charity No. 216632 (England & Wales), SC059193 (Scotland)



The *Yorkshire Bird Report* is an annual publication intended as a record of interesting ornithological observations made within the historic county of Yorkshire; for further details of the recording area, please refer to the map opposite. As the Report aims to be an accurate record, all unusual sightings have been accepted by the YNU's adjudication panel or, where applicable, the British Birds Rarities Committee prior to publication.

Manuscripts relating to migration studies, the documentation of unusual sightings, or local patch studies are welcomed, with those submitted subject to editing where appropriate. The editors will gladly discuss contributions with the authors and advise on preparation.

GENERAL

When a bird species is mentioned both the English and scientific name must be given, thereafter, the English name only. English names should follow that of the BOU *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland* (7th edition, 2006) updated by BOU 2006. Metric units must be used; dates should be in the form 1st January 2008. Numbers one to ten should be written in full, except when used with a measurement abbreviation or higher number, thus: five birds, but 5km and 5-11 birds. Numerals are used for all numbers greater than ten, written thus: 11, 110, 1100 and 11,000.

MANUSCRIPTS

These should preferably be sent electronically as an email attachment to craigcthomas@yahoo.co.uk or mailed on a disk. The text, tables, figure legends (which must be self explanatory) and appendices should be combined in one Word.doc file. A hard copy must be provided with any article that includes tables or graphics. Alternatively, typescripts, original maps and diagrams can be sent by mail. All articles are credited with the authors name.

IMAGES

Original slides, negatives and prints are preferred for professional scanning to ensure optimum reproduction. All relevant images submitted will be evaluated and credited with the photographer's name.

If images are taken with a digital camera please ensure that they are taken at the maximum resolution so the physical and file size are large enough for this publication's format (170x245mm). Tiff, eps or JPEG files of at least 300dpi are preferred. JPEG files must be 'maximum' quality, that is, maximum compression. Please ensure that all images are labelled with the species, month taken and photographer's full name.

Slides must be scanned on a specialist slide scanner. If images are too large to email either write to a CD or DVD and mail. Alternatively, send over the internet via www.yousendit.com

This bypasses your email system by sending files transferred over the internet. You can register for free and send upto 100Mb in files.

FIGURES (maps or diagrams)

These should preferably be sent as high resolution (300dpi) scans in a standard format (JPEG or Tiff). Maps should be marked with a scale and a north arrow.

DISCLAIMER

Every effort is made to retain articles in their submitted form, but the publication's Committee reserves the right to make necessary changes without prior consultation with the authors. All contributors submitting material to *Yorkshire Bird Report* also give permission for its use on the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union website.

It is assumed that all the above conditions have been understood and accepted.

CONTACT ADDRESS

Craig Thomas
Sunnybank, Church Lane,
Flamborough YO15 1PG
Tel: 01262 851677
Email: craigcthomas@yahoo.co.uk

ADVERTISING

To advertise in this Report, please contact:
Jill Warwick
Sharow Grange, Sharow, Ripon HG4 5BN
Tel: 01765 602832
e-mail: jill@swland.co.uk